

Kabariti pledges 'fairness' to doctors

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Monday pledged that the 1997 budget will allow for providing doctors with "fair" salary increases. During a visit to the doctors union, Mr. Kabariti also said the government will give due attention to housing projects, utilising parts of financial assistance received from donor countries in this direction. But the minister said no decision has been made yet on the demands for public sector doctors to open private clinics. Doctors have been demanding raising the overtime entitlement from 30 to 35 per cent of the basic salary.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

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ROYAL JORDANIAN  
YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Volume 21 Number 6274

AMMAN TUESDAY, JULY 16, 1996, SAFAR 30, 1417

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

King visits army headquarters

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday visited army headquarters where he was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh and other senior army officers. The King and Field Marshal Kaabneh discussed issues of concern to the armed forces.

Rifal meets Levy

TEL AVIV (Petra) — Jordanian Ambassador to Israel Omar Rifal on Monday met with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and discussed Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to the U.S. and his coming visit to both Egypt and Jordan. Mr. Levy reiterated Israel's commitment to the peace process. Mr. Rifal said: "Jordan is committed to the peace process and U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and 425 and the principle of land-for-peace. Mr. Rifal also met with Israeli Minister of Tourism Moshe Katsav and discussed with him bilateral cooperation in tourism.

Two trains in Algeria collide; 7 killed

ALGIERS (AFP) — Two trains collided Sunday at Boudaouaou station, 35 kilometres east of Algiers, killing seven people and injuring 140. Algeria's SNTF railway said. The crash involved a passenger train linking Algiers and Thénia, 50 kilometres from the capital, and a freight train between Algiers and Tizi-Ouzou, further to the east.

Egyptian police shoot militant Islamist

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Egyptian police shot dead a wanted militant Islamist on the platform of a train station in southern Egypt on Monday, security sources said. Sayyed Abderrahman Mustafa, 28, was standing alone on the platform in Abu Tig waiting to meet someone when the police unshipped him, they said. Police said Mustafa shot back but there were no police casualties. The pistol had been stolen from police Captain Salah Abdelhamid, shot dead by the militant Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic group) in an attack in June 1995, also in Abu Tig, 345 kilometres south of Cairo. Police suspect Mustafa took part in an attack on a farm in nearby Badari in February this year, killing eight Christians. Mustafa, once a trainee teacher, comes from the Badari area.

UNRWA moves headquarters to Gaza

GAZA CITY (AP) — The U.N. agency that helps Palestinian refugees on Monday transferred its headquarters from Vienna to the Gaza Strip to save money and be closer to the people it serves. "We operate in the Middle East, so we should be here," said Ron Wilkinson, a spokesman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). "Many of our people who work for refugees have never seen a refugee in their lives."

## Muasher: No more austerity measures

By Mervat Suwadeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a bid to mollify concerns of further price hikes, Information Minister Marwan Muasher asserted Monday that a plan to lift state subsidies on bread was the last "austerity measure" the government had to take as part of its economic reform plan. "By lifting subsidies on bread we have completed the economic plan that was launched in 1989 and Jordanians can be sure that there will not be further price increases," Dr. Muasher told an informal press briefing. Dr. Muasher's comments came few hours before Cabinet members were expected to submit proposals for cutting spending in their ministries to the prime minister as part of government measures to contain a JD100 million budget deficit.

However, Dr. Muasher stressed that applying restraints on public spending will not be sufficient to cover the deficit and that the government still has to

come up with an "annex" budget and ways to finance the deficit.

"Deputies will be provided with an annex budget very soon and most likely we will have to borrow to cover the budget deficit," Dr. Muasher pointed out.

Meanwhile, the government's proposal to provide salary increases to Jordanians in compensation for the hike in bread prices received its first positive response.

The Housing Bank announced Monday that it would pay the difference in bread prices to all of its 8,000 employees and their families in line with the government drive to compensate Jordanians for the planned price raise.

The government, which estimates the average consumption of bread of each Jordanian at 103 kilograms annually, says each citizen will be entitled to JD15 in compensation yearly.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti announced last week that the compensation will take the form of

(Continued on page 7)

## Diplomats downplay political motives in Libyan riots

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Exiled Libyan opposition parties tried to pin political motives on the football riot in Tripoli which killed at least eight people, but Western diplomats on Monday blamed the incident on angry fans.

A Libyan opposition figure said in Cairo that Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi's son had sparked the riot by openly favouring one of the teams, and that his bodyguards had shot four people dead when they fired at fans shouting anti-Qaddafi slogans.

Fans of the Ittihad Club "shouted slogans against Colonel Qaddafi and his son Al Saadi because Saadi intervened in favour of the opposing Al Ahli Club," the opposition member said. The fans became furious when "the referee under pressure from Saadi counted a decisive goal in favour of Al Ahli," he said, asking

not to be named.

But a European ambassador in Tripoli, contacted by AFP from Nicosia, said "opposition members are using the incident to suit their own purposes" and he "saw no evidence of hostile political slogans or police oppression."

"Hooliganism remains the most likely reason," said the ambassador, who requested anonymity. Libyan officials on Sunday for the first time admitted that eight people had died and 39 were injured after fans clashed following a close match between the country's two leading teams last Tuesday at a stadium in Tripoli packed with 60,000 spectators.

But one Western diplomat saw the riots as a sign of growing dissent against the Libyan leadership.

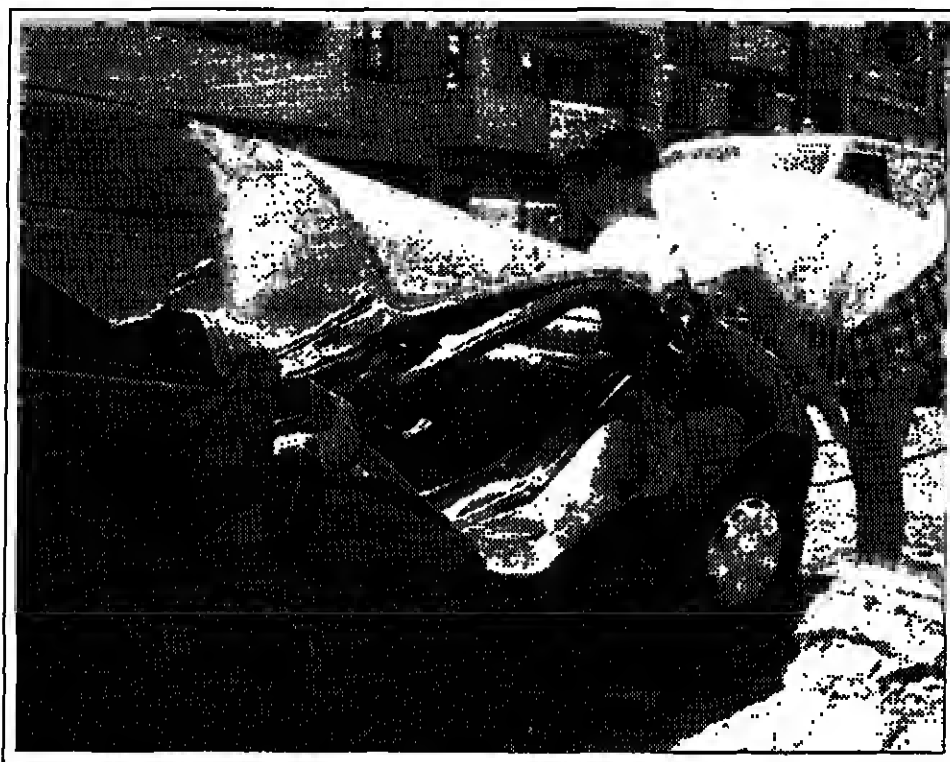
"There are more and

(Continued on page 7)

## Bahrain ready to defend islands against Qatar

MANAMA (AFP) — Bahrain is ready to defend to the death the Hawar islands against neighbouring Qatar, said Bahraini Crown Prince and Army Chief-of-Staff Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa, quoted by the official GNA agency Monday. "We are ready to defend" Bahraini sovereignty over the Hawar islands in the Gulf and "to die in the process," said Sheikh Hamad in a meeting with Defence Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al Khalifa, said GNA. "When we are asked to

reconsider the sovereignty of Bahrain over the Hawar islands and their waters, which represent a third of our national territory, then we are quite simply being asked to give up our legitimate right to defend ourselves and to defend our territory, and nobody can accept that," he said. Sheikh Hamad accused Qatar of "expansionism" and said Doha had dragged the dispute to the International Court of Justice in the Hague to "amputate" from Bahrain part of its territory.



FRANCE EARTHQUAKE: A woman checks the damage to her car after a chimney top (under her feet, right) fell on it in the Louis Levon Street of Annecy, following an earthquake early Monday. The quake measuring 5.3 to 5.5 on the Richter scale, was the strongest to hit the area in 20 years (Reuters photo) (see story page 5)

## House discusses 'excesses' of weekly press, promises action

By Tareq Momani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Parliament Monday held a four-hour informal meeting to discuss what was described by its Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour as "certain unacceptable practices by local newspapers concerning national unity and coverage of topics that are considered offensive to the public taste and the ethics of Islam."

Mr. Srour said after the meeting that "deputies of various political affiliations who expressed their views at the session were unanimous in their demand that freedom of expression for all Jordanians must be guaranteed provided that such freedom does not infringe on national unity in any way."

"The Lower House of Parliament serves as the country's main forum for exercising political pluralism and free expression and, acting in this spirit,

the deputies have discussed what should be done and came to an agreement that the law must be strictly applied in cases where violations against national unity have been committed in writings, seminars, lectures or other means and also in any infringement made against the Arab and Islamic ethics and values," said Mr. Srour.

He said that the deputies have agreed that "if need be, Parliament will issue new legislation to deal with any loopholes in the existing laws to safeguard national unity and the deputies have decided for the time being to create a committee which will meet Tuesday to draft a statement with regard to these two issues, summing up the views of law makers who addressed the meeting and also suggesting the appropriate mechanism for dealing with violations of this kind."

Speaking during the

meeting held at the hall of pictures, Islamic Action Front Party Deputy Basam Emoush asked what procedures had the government taken against those writers from the self-rule areas of Palestine who he claimed write articles in the Jordanian press "sowing seeds of dissension and sedition in their writings."

Another Islamic Action Front Party Deputy Mohammad Al Haj demanded that the government be strict with those whose writings he said tend to harm national unity. Deputy Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh demanded that the government not allow any group opposed to another Arab regime to function from Jordan and not allow any citizen to have dual political affiliation. He demanded that the law be strictly applied against "those who try to stir regional, ethnic or sectarian disturbances through their writings in any publication."

## King talks with Netanyahu, Chirac, receives message from Clinton

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a phone call from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during which the King and Mr. Netanyahu exchanged views on the latest developments in the peace process. His Majesty emphasised "the dire need to follow up the peace talks in order to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East for the interest of the people and the coming generations."

King Hussein also received Monday a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton and a telephone call from French President Jacques Chirac on the stalemate Middle East peace process, officials said.

In his message Mr. Clinton "stressed Washington's commitment to sponsoring and fostering support for the peace process so that it reaches its targets" of achieving comprehensive peace in

the Middle East, they said. Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Clinton "hailed the distinguished Jordanian-U.S. ties." It said that the message came "within consultations and joint coordination on the need to pursue the peace process and build on its foundation towards a comprehensive settlement."

In their telephone call, King Hussein and Mr. Chirac "exchanged views on the latest developments on the peace process," Petra said. It quoted both leaders as "stressing the need to pursue the peace process and enable it to bypass all hurdles."

They also "tackled the Jordanian-French ties and means to boost them as well as the forthcoming visit to Jordan by French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette." Mr. Chirac also briefed King Hussein on his recent tour of Arab Gulf states, Petra said.

## Jordan, Syria agree to curb infiltrations

BEIRUT (AFP) — Syria and Jordan have reached an agreement to curb radical Palestinian groups based in Syria from infiltrating across their common borders and eventually into Israel, Al Sharq Al Awsat reported Monday. The Saudi daily, quoting an unnamed Jordanian official, said Syria and Jordan agreed "to consider the borders red lines in the face of groups opposed to the (Middle East) peace process."

Jordan was strained after Jordan accused Syria last month of sending anti-Israeli militants to infiltrate its borders and carry out attacks against Jordanian targets and Israeli tourists.

Three Israeli soldiers were killed in the Jordan Valley last month by Palestinian infiltrators.

Relations between the two neighbours had deteriorated after Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel in October 1994.

(Continued on page 7)

## Clinton to Arafat: U.S. policy on peace unchanged

## Iran welcomes Arab statements on Israel

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton has assured Palestinian President Yasser Arafat that the U.S. position on the Middle East peace process remains the same, officials said Monday.

In a written letter to Mr. Arafat after the landmark trip to Washington by new Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Mr. Clinton said "Washington supported a just and compre-

hensive peace in the Middle East and affirmed that the American position was unchanged," said Palestinian spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina.

Mr. Clinton told Mr. Arafat that the United States "will do all it can to support the Palestinian people," Mr. Abu Rudeina added.

He hailed the letter handed over on Monday by the U.S. consul general in

Jerusalem Edward Abington as an important step which would "help to promote confidence."

The Palestinians were particularly angered by the lack of any criticism by Mr. Clinton of Mr. Netanyahu's headline stances during his trip to the United States.

Mr. Netanyahu won resounding applause in the U.S. Congress when he ruled out any division of Jerusalem, also claimed by

the Palestinians as capital of any future state of their own.

The new right-wing, nationalist Israeli leader also said the Jews had the right to settle in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, territories claimed by the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, Mr. Arafat said on Monday he and Egypt were looking for ways to boost peace talks with Israel despite the hard-

line policies of the Jewish state's new government.

On his return to self-ruled Gaza after meeting President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, Mr. Arafat said: "We have discussed details of how we can push the peace process despite all that we are facing from the other side."

Mr. Netanyahu will visit Mr. Mubarak in Egypt on Thursday on his first trip to an Arab country since winning Israel's May elections.

## IOC rejects Israeli protest against Palestine team

ATLANTA, Georgia (AFP) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) firmly rejected on Monday Israel's protest over the decision allowing the Palestinian team to compete in the Atlanta Olympics under the name of Palestine.

IOC Director General Francois Carrard said the Israeli government was simply playing politics.

The IOC recognised the Palestinian national Olympic committee in 1993 and Mr. Carrard stressed that

no-one, including Israel, had complained or protested.

"Our decision is fully supported by the Israeli national Olympic committee and the Israeli IOC member," said Mr. Carrard.

"We are standing by our position. We have no intention of getting involved in politics," he added.

In a letter of protest to the IOC, Israel complained "an attempt is being made to utilise the forthcoming Olympic Games for political gain, to influence an ongoing political negotiating process, both in contravention of the Olympic charter and of the recently signed agreement between Israel and the Palestinians."

The July 11 letter, a copy of which was obtained by AFP, urged the committee to "avoid potential political abuse of the Olympic Games."

The Palestinians are fielding their first team to the Olympics comprising three athletes and a dozen accompanying officials.

Israel, while welcoming their participation, suggested they should be described as the "Palestinian Olympic Committee, Palestinian autonomy, or Palestinian delegation. This would avoid potential political abuse of the Olympic Games."

Israeli consul general in Atlanta, Arieh Mekel, also protested the presence of Palestinians on the team from East Jerusalem, because, according to him, the delegation should be limited to territories under the administration of the Palestinian authority.

The president of the Israeli Olympic Committee, Yoram Oberkovitch, has criticised his government's position, calling it an "error." "This letter will not change the fact that the Palestinians will march in Atlanta under the Palestine sign, and it threatens to squish two-years of efforts for us to participate in Mediterranean Games," Mr. Oberkovitch said.



## Syria welcomes Lebanon ceasefire committee deal

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria on Monday welcomed the delayed agreement on the establishment of a five-member committee to monitor the April 27 ceasefire in Lebanon between Israel and Hizbollah guerrillas.

But a senior Syrian official told Reuters the deal involving Syria, Israel, Lebanon, France and the United States had nothing to do with the stalled Syrian-Israeli peace talks whose future had become even more unclear with the election of Israeli hardline leader Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister.

"There is no link between agreement on the formation of the committee and the peace negotiations with Israel which suffered further complications when Mr. Netanyahu, with his anti-peace policies, came to power," the official said.

The ceasefire was reached after 17 days of fighting in which about 200 Lebanese civilians were killed and 400 wounded, and about 50 Israelis were wounded. The deaths were caused by Israeli retaliation for Hizbollah rocket attacks into northern Israel.

Peace negotiations between Damascus and

Israel, which began in 1991, are stalled over the fate of the Golan Heights — seized from Syria by Israel in 1967 and which Damascus demands back — security arrangements and future ties.

U.S. administration officials said that Washington saw the ceasefire committee agreement, reached last Friday, as an important vehicle for bringing Syria and the new Israeli government into direct contact.

Syria strongly condemns Mr. Netanyahu's policies, especially his rejection of the land-for-peace principle which was accepted by his predecessor Shimon Peres. It has warned that continuation of Mr. Netanyahu's policies would kill the peace process.

Announcement of the Lebanon agreement was made when Mr. Netanyahu was making his first visit as a prime minister in Washington. His diplomatic adviser, Dore Gold, attended Friday's meeting at which the agreement was made.

Syria is the main foreign power broker in Lebanon where it has some 35,000 troops.

The Syrian official said that Damascus wanted a

quick formation of the monitoring group to prevent and investigate any violation of the ceasefire deal.

"The committee will certainly have positive work in protecting civilians in the Lebanese and Israeli lands. This committee should be formed very quickly to start its task," the official said.

U.S. officials said on Friday the committee could be operational in two weeks.

According to the agreement, a five-nation monitoring group will be based in the South Lebanese border town of Naqura to observe compliance with the ceasefire deal.

A chair, based in Cyprus, will operate 24 hours to receive complaints of violations. It will also organise meetings of the monitoring group — composed of military representatives — to decide within 72 hours how to handle the complaints.

The Lebanese April truce bans the targeting of civilians by either side but allows combatants the right of retaliation. It does not bar Hizbollah from attacking Israeli troops inside the Jewish state's occupation zone in South Lebanon.

## Jericho taps fragile tourism market

JERICHO, West Bank (AFP) — Tourism is enjoying a gentle revival in Jericho, the world's oldest town, but a potential boom is already being threatened by a lack of facilities and promotion.

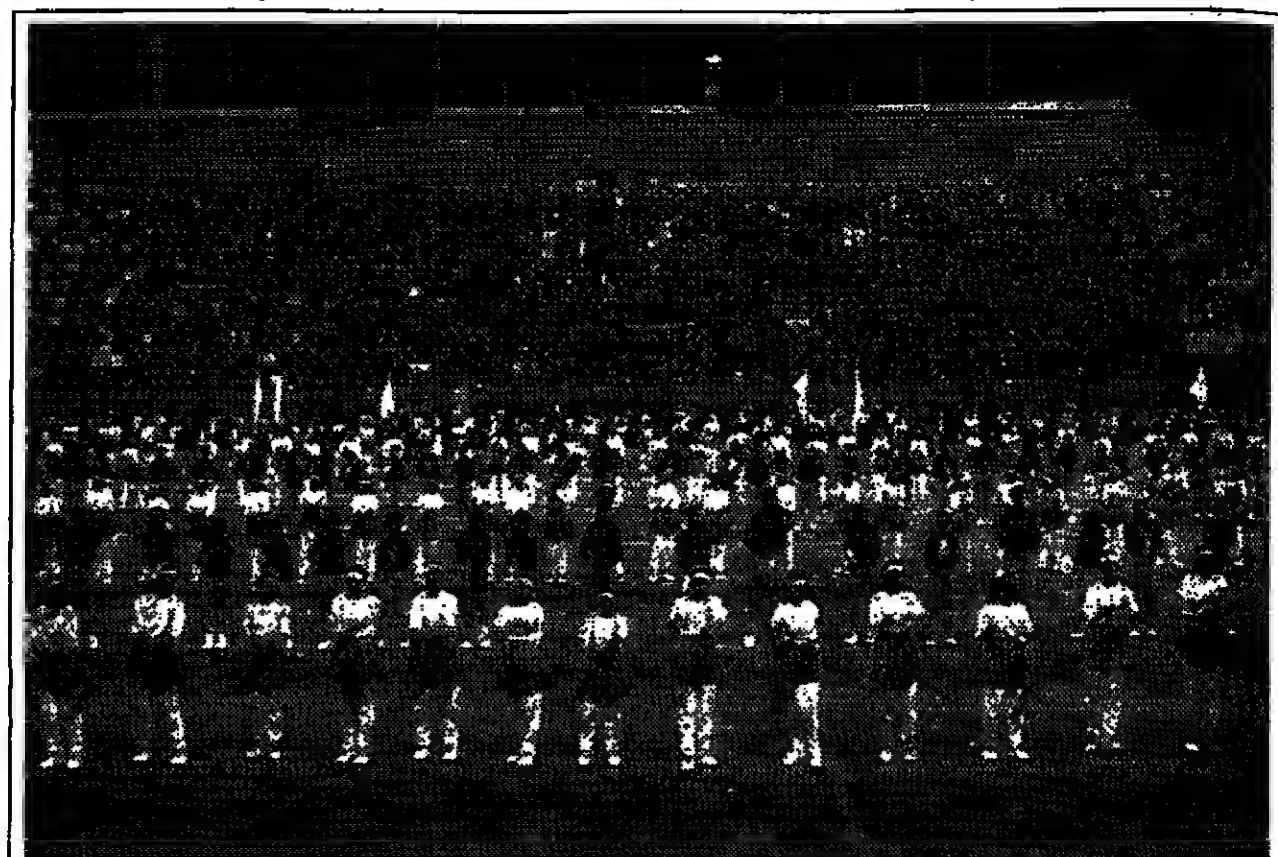
The number of tourists visiting the Palestinian town, which is also the world's lowest town at 250 metres below sea level, rose by eight per cent in the first quarter of 1996 to nearly 189,000, according to official statistics.

But Jericho's director of tourism, Hamza Sammadi, quoted by the Palestinian press, said the town currently only had 38 hotel rooms, although he said this is expected to rise to 455 rooms in 1997 after the completion of a range of hotel projects, including a \$150 million tourism village.

Khaled Abdul Razek, owner of a hotel complex, said his 65-room hotel complex had been on hold for two years because of delays to important roadworks.

Situated 10 kilometres north of the Dead Sea and seven kilometres west of the River Jordan, Jericho has a wealth of tourist attractions including the 8,000-year-old colony of Tell Sultan, the Greek Monastery of Quarantine and a palace built in 742.

Jericho was the first West Bank town to pass to the control of the Palestinian authority in May 1994.



LIBYAN STADIUM FILE PHOTO: Libya's state-run television reported that eight people were killed and 39 injured at riots in a Tripoli stadium, pictured in a recent undated file photograph, during a football match last Tuesday. The riot is the latest sign of discontent with 27 years of rule by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, diplomats in the Libyan capital said (see page 1 story) (Reuters photo)

## Palestinian students less favourable to an independent Palestinian state

From the Jerusalem Post

STUDENTS ARE about twice as radical as the Palestinian population as a whole, but they are less in favour of an independent Palestinian state, according to a poll by the Nablus-based Centre for Palestinian Research and Studies.

This is explained, the pollsters say, by their disillusion with Palestinian democracy, and a feeling that some kind of unity with Jordan would provide more democracy.

The poll, conducted among 1,060 students from

Bir Zeit, Al Najah (Nablus), and Bethlehem universities in May, shows that while 21 per cent of the general population favours "armed operations," 58 per cent of students support them.

While 81 per cent in general favour continuing the peace process, only 42 per cent of students support it. While 32 per cent of the general population think the Palestinian Covenant should not have been amended, 77 per cent of the students oppose amendment.

Students are much more concerned than the general

population by the failure of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to live up to democratic norms.

While 31 per cent of the general population feel there is less freedom of speech than before the arrival of the PNA, 64 per cent of students feel that way.

Consequently support for some kind of unity with Jordan is increasing. While 57 per cent of students support an independent Palestinian state, 26 per cent now support a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation or a complete union (and 17 per

cent support another position).

In previous polls, support for a Palestinian state among students increased in 1994-1995 from 71 per cent to 78 per cent.

Support for a Palestinian state among students is now lower than among the general population, which in previous polls voted from 60 per cent to 66 per cent in favour of complete independence.

The poll's margin of error is 3 per cent.

Differences in responses among the three universities were minor.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Filipinos sent home after trying to sneak into Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A group of Filipino waiters disguised as journalists was Monday turned back at Tel Aviv airport after border guards rummled their play, police said. The group was equipped with cameras and sophisticated recording equipment as well as press cards and had travelled to Israel business class. But during questioning at passport control they said they wanted to report on the "holy city" of Tel Aviv, confusing the sprawling Israeli city, dubbed here "the city of sin" with Jerusalem. Finally the group, whose number was not specified, broke down and admitted they had wanted to sneak into Israel to work as waiters and join members of their families who had also entered the country illegally. They were sent back to Manila following a decree from the interior ministry. More than 200,000 immigrants are thought to be working both officially and illegally in the country, about 10 per cent of the active Israeli population. Most were brought in to replace the Palestinian workforce.

#### Iranian deputy minister due in Ankara Thursday

ANKARA (AFP) — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Boroujerdi will make a one-day visit to Ankara this week, a spokesman for the Turkish foreign ministry said here Monday. Mr. Boroujerdi during his visit Thursday will meet with Turkey's Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs Ali Tugyan. There is no particular agenda attached to the meeting, Omer Akbel said. Turkish-Iranian relations are going through an uneasy period following several incidents, including a Turkish attack last month in northwest Iran which killed six civilians and injured 16, according to Iranian authorities. Turkey has denied any involve-

ment in the attack and the two countries have formed a joint military commission to investigate the incident.

#### Four leftists die following attack on police station

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Four extreme-left militants were killed in a shoot-out with police after the extremists launched an attack on an Istanbul police station that injured two police officers, police said Monday. The two men and two women, thought to be members of a left-wing extremist group, shot at a police station in the Gulpete district, located in a European part of the city, in the late Sunday. They fled in two cars, but police caught up to them at an apartment in the same district and killed them after a two-hour standoff. Police detained several other suspects in the attack.

#### Egypt to create revolutionary museum

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt will set up a museum to former President Gamal Abdul Nasser and the other leaders of its 1952 revolution. Culture Minister Faruq Hosni said, quoted by the press on Monday. Mr. Hosni made the announcement during a visit Sunday to the neo-classical building which once housed the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) that overthrew Egypt's last monarch King Farouk in 1952, the daily Al-Ahram said. The building will be turned into a museum "to the history of the July 1952 revolution and the presidents which followed it," Abdul Nasser, Anwar Al Sadat and current President Hosni Mubarak. Mr. Hosni said. The exhibition will include a hall dedicated to each president, including Abdul Nasser's office, and display "all their papers, including rare documents, manuscripts and records signed by them," he said.

## Kurdish deputies take case to European court

STRASBOURG (AFP) — Six Turkish deputies of Kurdish origin who claim to have been victims of human rights violations have had their case passed to the European Court on Human Rights, the Council of Europe announced here Monday.

The arrest of the six deputies was in violation of article 5 of the European convention on human rights, legal experts of the European Commission of Human Rights (ECHR) decided. However, their decision has no legal consequence, and it is now for the court to rule on the case.

The six deputies, all former members of the Democracy Party, were arrested between March 2 and March 4, 1994 immediately after their parliamentary immunity was lifted.

They were kept in custody until Turkey's state security court condemned them in December 1994 to sentences ranging from three-and-a-half to 15 years in prison for separatist propaganda or belonging to armed groups.

The lifting of immunity, arrest and sentencing of the six deputies provoked widespread protest from around the world. Two of the six were released last year, but the 15-year sentences for Leyla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Selim Sadak and Omer Dngan were upheld.

In another action being examined by the ECHR, the six deputies have invoked articles 6 and 10 of the European Convention, which guarantee the right to a fair and impartial trial, and the right to freedom of expression.

## Two-thirds of Israelis believe in peace process, poll reveals

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Two-thirds of Israelis still support the Middle East peace process despite the election of a right-wing government opposed to trading occupied Arab land for peace, according to a poll published Monday.

The monthly poll by the Peace Research Centre at Tel Aviv University found that 63.3 per cent of Israelis were in favour of the peace process in June, the same figure as in April and only slightly down from 66.3 per cent in May.

There was "a marked and surprising stability in the public's attitude towards the peace process, despite the political upheaval

brought about by the recent elections," the survey noted.

"In other words, the results of the Israeli elections did not reflect any national desire to turn back the clock, at least as far as the peace process is concerned,"

The Israelis were solid in their support for the accords which launched Palestinian autonomy, 53 per cent being in favour of the agreements in June compared with 52.8 per cent in May and 56 per cent in April.

Growing numbers of Israelis also believe Palestinian claims for an independent state are justified — 55 per cent in June compared with 44 per cent a year ago.

However fewer believe the Israeli-Palestinian talks will actually lead to such a state — 53 per cent compared with 69 per cent a year ago.

But 71 per cent of those polled applauded the "stronger" attitude of the new right-wing government led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the negotiations after its May 29 election victory.

And only 35.8 per cent were in favour of returning the annexed Golan Heights to Syria, a minority echoed in May when just 32.7 per cent were for the return of the plateau and 40.5 per cent in April.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 Iris The Happy Professor  
15:15 .....Captain Planet  
15:30 .....Hot Shots  
16:10 .....Olympic  
17:00 .....News Flash  
17:02 .....Sciences Cartoon  
17:15 .....La Vie Devant  
17:30 .....Game Show  
18:00 Medical Magazine  
18:00 .....Savoir Plus Sante  
19:00 .....Le Journal  
19:15 .....Magazine — Ushuaia  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 .....Blossom  
20:00 .....Documentary  
20:30 .....Encounter  
21:10 .....Star Trek  
22:00 .....News In English  
22:30 .....Human Target  
23:15 .....Hawaii 5-0  
23:45 .....My Two Wives

#### PRAYER TIMES

04:03 .....Fajr  
05:36 .....(Sunrise) Duha  
12:41 .....Dhuhr  
16:22 .....Asr  
19:47 .....Maghreb  
21:20 .....Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swefield, Tel. 810740  
Assembly of God Church  
Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990

#### Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.

#### De la Salle Church Tel.

661757.

#### Terra Sancta Church Tel.

622366.

#### Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

#### Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771331.

#### Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

775261.

#### St. Ephraim Church Tel.

771751.

#### Amman International Church Tel.

652526.

#### Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.

824338.

#### German-speaking Evangelical Church Tel.

845457.

#### The Latter-Day Saints Tel.

654932.

#### Church of Nazareth Tel.

675691.

#### The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel.

811295.

#### English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel.

614190.

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

#### Min/Max. temp.

Amman .....13/30

Aqaba .....24/38

Deserts .....17/35

Jordan Valley .....23/36

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 29, Aqaba 36 Humidity

readings: Amman 43 per cent,

Aqaba 37 per cent.

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Jamal Jharah .....847351

Dr. Abbas Al Hakeim .....885446

Dr. Arafat Al Ashbah .....602507

Dr. Mohammad Al Izzah .....778959

Ferdows pharmacy .....778336

Al Asema pharmacy .....637055

Al Salam pharmacy .....636730

Yacoub pharmacy .....644945

Shamsani pharmacy .....637660

Nalroukh pharmacy .....623672

Najib pharmacy .....847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazin Abu Bakir .....276852

Dr. Hilal Al Sayyid .....986702

Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

#### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....637111

Civil Defence Dept. ....661111

Civil Defence Immediate Res-

cue .....630341

Civil Defence Emergency .....199

Rescue Police 192 .....621111

637777

Fire Brigade .....617101

Blood Bank .....775121

Highway Police .....843402

Traffic Police .....896390

Public Security Department .....630321

Hotel Complaints .....605800

Price Complaints .....661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467

Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121

Overseas Calls .....010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs .....661101

Jordan Television .....773111

Radio Jordan .....774111

Water Authority .....680100

Jordan Electricity Authority .....815615

Electric Power Company .....636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity .....644281/6

Adileh Maternity .....642441/2

Jahat Amman Maternity .....642362

Malhas, J. Amman .....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani .....607071

Shmeisani Hospital .....669131

University Hospital .....845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 66727/9

The Islamic, Abdali 66616/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6

Italian, Al-Mubajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir .....775111/26

Army, Marka .....891611/5

Queen Alia Hospital 602340/50

Amal Hospital .....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital .....(09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:00 .....Damascus (RJ)

08:15 .....Sanaa (RJ)

10:15 .....Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)

10:30 .....Beirut (RJ)

10:35 .....Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

10:50 .....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

14:05 .....New York (RJ)

17:20 .....Jeddah (RJ)

17:30 .....London (RJ)

17:40 .....Frankfurt (RJ)

18:25 .....Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights

05:40 .....London (BA)





Queen Noor on Monday distributes diplomas to the first class of students of Amman Private University at the Amman Stadium of Al Hussein Youth City.

## Queen distributes diplomas to first Amman Private University students

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Private University (APU) celebrated the graduation of its first class of students yesterday at the Amman Stadium of Al Hussein Youth City.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, continuing a tradition of support for the inauguration of high quality national education institutions, distributed diplomas and prizes to the graduates of

the 19 different faculties, a Royal Court statement said.

The first private university to be established in Jordan, the APU is unique in its aim to address the requirements of the job-market in Jordan, as well as those of other Arab countries, said its President Amin Mahmoud, a former minister of culture.

The university plans to implement

exchange programmes agreed with Arab and European universities, and proposals are under negotiation to include American universities in the programme, said Dr. Mahmoud.

Also attending the ceremony was Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour, the statement said.

## King meets visiting U.S. advisory team at army headquarters

*Focus of visit is role, status of women in the military*

AMMAN (J.T.) — An advisory committee on women in the U.S. armed forces yesterday met with His Majesty King Hussein and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafiz Marzi Kaabneh at General Army Headquarters where they were briefed on the role of women in the Jordan Armed Forces.

Fourteen members of the Defence Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWIT) are on a four-day trip to Jordan at the invitation of the Directorate of Women's Affairs at the Jordanian Armed Forces. They are being hosted by head of the Directorate, HRH Princess Aisha Bint Hussein, who holds the rank of major in the armed forces.

The Directorate of Women's Affairs was established in 1995 to meet the interests of approximately 3,000 women serving in the Jordanian Armed Forces.

"We (the directorate) are a new institution, responsible for dealing with women's issues in the armed forces — harassment, pay, etc.," said Captain Sana Fadel Ali.

them to share our experience thus far and to learn how they deal with these issues."

DACOWIT has been in force since 1951. It was established by then Secretary of Defence George C. Marshall.

The committee is composed of civilian women and men appointed by the Secretary of Defence, and is charged with providing him with recommendations relevant to the utilisation of women in U.S. armed forces and quality of life issues.

According to Capt. Fadel Ali, the group has a full programme that includes visits to the Jordanian Armed Forces throughout the Kingdom.

The group was also addressed yesterday during a luncheon by HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, who spoke about community and military service of women throughout the history of Islam.

Citing the Koran's account of the Creation — "and of everything we have created pairs", she said, women's equality to men in the Koran was further underlined by its instruction that neither man nor woman is secondary to the other but rather that they are partners without any pri-



HRH, flanked by U.S. Defence Attaché Michael Shaw and head of the visiting DACOWITs team Mrs. Hemphill and other guests Monday at a luncheon in honour of the visiting American delegation at the Marriott I. (Petra photo)

ority or superiority.

"In its truest sense then, Islam must be recognised as a potent force of emancipation," she said, "according to women a number of unprecedented and surprisingly modern rights in the legal, social, economic, political and civil spheres."

The Koran, she said, gave women the right to take part

in "Jihad" to defend one's religion. She cited several women leaders and participants in Jihad including Asma Bint Abu Bakr, who carried out the first clandestine mission in Islamic history; Um Umarah, Aisha, the wife of the Prophet, and Fatima, his daughter in the battle of Uhud; the Prophet's aunt Safiya during the siege of

Medina and Umm Haraam during the raid on Cyprus in 649.

She also discussed misconceptions about marriage and divorce, the issue of the veiling of women, and polygamy in modern Islamic society, and elaborated on the Koran's instructions on rights of women regarding these issues.

## Mayor extends vacate notice for Wadi Haddadeh residents

By Rana Hussein and Khader Atrash  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi announced that he will extend the deadline for Wadi Haddadeh residents to vacate their homes and increase the compensation offered to landlords before proceeding to build a city-tunnel in that area in October.

On June 26, Wadi Haddadeh residents received a notice from the Amman Municipality that they must vacate their homes in late July. In its notice, the municipality offered landlords JD 27 per square metre to compensate the owners for the loss of their property.

The municipality's actions drew strong protest by residents who complained that the time period to abandon their homes was too short, and the compensation offered by the municipality was insufficient.

Responding to the residents' complaints, on July 13 the municipality decided to increase the compensation amount to JD 54 per square metre, and to extend the deadline for vacating the premises to Oct. 1.

"The municipality's decision comes as a humanitarian response since residents of that area already live in deteriorating houses and need some financial support," Dr. Abbadi told the Jordan Times Sunday.

But some tenants who reside in the Zahran area in Wadi Haddadeh, said they will not benefit from the municipality's compensation plan because according to many, new rents are much higher than their existing rents.

"If I move out of my JD 12 a month rented house, I will have to pay ten times this amount for a new lease," a woman, who preferred anonymity said.

The woman, who has been living in the Zahran area for the past 30 years, said she will defy the municipality's decision to vacate her house.

"I will not accept the decision and I will not vacate, even if they demolish my house over my head, unless a fair compensation is given to me," the 65-year-old woman said.

A landlord of the same area also protested the



View of the area downtown Amman next to the palace of Justice to be vacated and destroyed to clear the way for a tunnel linking King Hussein road to Wadi Haddadeh behind Jabal Al Qal'a (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

municipality's recent measures saying: "I will challenge the mayor's order at the Court of First Instance."

A health club trainer who works at Body Building Club in King Hussein St., the oldest such centre in the Kingdom, considered the decision "unfair," it "harms me materially and morally," he said.

Zahran area residents also expressed their disapproval over the municipality's decision stating that they were not asked to be part of the delegation which met twice with the Amman mayor on this issue.

"None of us was among the delegation that met the mayor. This lessened our chances of expressing our viewpoints and demands," attorney Osama Gheith told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Gheith called on Dr. Abbadi to either reconsider the municipality's recent decision altogether or raise the reimbursement of those affected by the decision and extend the deadline to vacate to one year.

But Dr. Abbadi said the municipality cannot meet any of these demands

because it will be referring the tender for the construction of the vehicle tunnel to the winning bidder by the end of this month.

When asked what action the municipality might take if some inhabitants decide to take the municipality to court, Dr. Abbadi said: "We at the municipality abide by the Eminent Domain Law, and they are free to do whatever they want."

According to Dr. Abbadi, a joint venture, between local and foreign construction companies conducted a study of the area where the tunnel will be constructed and estimated the project would cost JD 4,400,000.

The 188-metre-long tunnel will link the Wadi Haddadeh area to King Hussein St., Dr. Abbadi said, adding that this tunnel is part of a master plan to construct ring roads in order to minimise traffic congestion in the downtown area.

"This is a national project which will work to serve the country in the future and should be supported by all sectors of society," Dr. Abbadi said.

## Panel studies drug price hike

By Samir Hijawi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Health Ministry technical committee which controls prices, and quality of medicine sold in Jordan is currently studying prospects of raising the prices of some medicines in the country, according to the director of the Medicine Department at the Ministry of Health Maisaa Saket.

She told the Jordan Times Monday that there will definitely be a 3.9 per cent increase in prices of some imported medicines. Jordan pays for these medications in U.S. currency because of the increase in the exchange rate of the dollar that occurred more than two years ago.

She said: "We are bound to be affected by the fluctuating rates of exchange of various currencies, because the regulations governing the work of the technical committee provide for revising the prices of medicines any time the rate rises by three per cent and the increase lasts for at least three months."

"All drug firms and importers of medicine have been demanding an increase in the price of drugs," added Mrs. Saket.

Abdul Rahim Issa, the president of the Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) confirmed that a study was under way for raising the prices of some medicines that were registered in Jordan since 1988, stressing that the proposed increases would not exceed four per cent.

Mr. Issa said that, "the Jordanian pharmaceutical industries are currently facing a crisis resulting from the country's old pricing policies which still evaluate the Jordanian dinar to be equivalent to \$3 as the case had been prior to 1989."

Adnan Bdwan, deputy chairman of the Jordanian Union of Drug Producers told the Jordan Times that "the pharmaceutical firms are demanding that Jordan reconsider the prices of certain medicines and raise them within reason."

Mr. Bdwan said, "It has been suggested that the increase should be reasonable so that Jordanians will still be able to afford the medications, and at the same time ensure a reasonable margin of profit for the pharmaceutical companies."

The Ministry of Health, the JPA and the pharmaceutical firms are cooperating to

guarantee that the interests of all parties will be addressed.

Mr. Bdwan added, "some of the medicines sold in Jordan are registered at old rates, which the Jordanian dinar, was equivalent to \$3, and no one has yet re-examined the possibility of hiking the prices. This has prompted some firms to avoid manufacturing them because they were not profitable."

"The pharmaceutical industries depend on imported inputs whose prices have risen on world markets, but there was no change in the price of the produced drugs," added Mr. Bdwan.

"We do not seek to hike prices of medicine to a level where the Jordanian citizens find it impossible to buy, neither can we allow the pharmaceutical firms to continue production without ensuring a reasonable margin of profit to cover expenses while catering to the requirements of new technologies in production," he added.

"In the past seven years the local pharmaceutical firms have continued to supply their products despite the fact that they did not make profit on some of the medicines," according to Mr. Bdwan.

He said, "Prices of medicines are continually rising on the world markets due to the monopoly of major companies and the application of the intellectual property laws by countries joining the 'World Trade Organisation'."

Referring to the sale of locally-made medicines, he said that "Jordanian firms cover 56 per cent of the local market's needs of medicine."

According to Mrs. Saket, "Jordan consumes JD 83 million worth of medicines; JD 60 million worth of those drugs are imported. The average per capita consumption (of medications) in Jordan is JD25.5 annually."

She said there are 5,386 types of medicines on the Jordanian market, 1,800 of them are imported.

According to the Ministry of Health, Jordan exports JD 120 million worth of medicine annually through its eight pharmaceutical plants. Another eight drug manufacturers are being established, the ministry said.

## Kabariti opens new Karak hospital

KARAK (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Monday inaugurated the new 110-bed hospital in Karak financed by the Italian government, and voiced Jordan's appreciation of Italy's generous contribution to the Kingdom's health services.

In 1988, Italy and Jordan signed an agreement on the construction of the hospital which has cost \$13 million. Construction work was started in Sept. 1993.

In his address at the opening ceremony, Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francesco Cerulli praised the strong ties between Jordan and his country, reflected in the construction of the new health facility.

Mr. Cerulli highlighted the cooperation in healthcare fields, noting that in 1927, Dr. Fausto Tesio opened in

Amman the first hospital in Transjordan.

He added that in 1937 another Italian hospital was inaugurated in Karak.

He thanked the Italian firm Tangram, and the Jordanian company Ziad Salah for their work in constructing the facility.

Mr. Cerulli also paid homage to Saad Madanat who he said was instrumental in organising the transfer of the old hospital to the new building.

At the ceremony, Minister of Health Aref Bataineh said the construction of the hospital was part of government's strategy to improve healthcare services, pointing out that in the past year the government opened five new hospitals in Jordan.

The Ministry of Health has

also recently acquired a plot of land in Karak to begin the construction of the Karak Nursing College next year.

He said that with the opening of the new 6,500 square metre hospital, public hospital beds in Jordan now number 3,117.

The Italian-funded hospital has potential for expansion for a further 220 beds and has been provided with the most sophisticated equipment including specialised clinics, a physiotherapy unit and staff residential quarters, said the Director of the Karak Health Department Abdullah Shawawreh.

Karak Governorate was previously solely served by an Italian hospital which was expanded in April 1995 to accommodate 45 beds.

## AACO to open regional training centre in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian Public Relations chief Munih Toukan Monday announced that the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) will sign an agreement this month to establish a regional civil aviation training centre in Amman for the employees of 18 Arab airlines including Royal Jordanian (RJ).

The training centre, Mr. Toukan said, will cover several domains including administration, financing, scheduling, as well as ground service training.

The project, he added, was approved by the AACO's Development and Training Committee at a meeting in Amman last year and will be financed by the European Union (EU) at a cost of \$750,000.

The signing of the agreement, scheduled for July 24, by AACO Secretary General Abdul Wahab Tuffaha and the EU's representative in

Amman Yves Gazzo will be preceded by a two-day meeting of a committee which will discuss several issues concerning the training of airline employees, as well as the centre itself.

According to Mr. Toukan, His Majesty King Hussein last year instructed the government to assign a suitable plot of land for the establishment of the training centre.

So far, no such steps have been taken awaiting the outcome of a feasibility study which has been conducted by the AACO secretariat and the International Air Transport Association (IATA), said Mr. Toukan.

The study, he added, examined the Arab airline's need for such a training centre and whether the AACO and the IATA would be interested in sending their employees for training at the centre.

The study showed, according to Mr. Toukan, that the establishment of the centre

and training employees was viable, as no less than 2,700 personnel would benefit from its facilities and services.

The various Arab airlines are expected to provide financial backing to the AACO for five consecutive years, and to help in the administration of the centre.

Furthermore, he said, the AACO's general assembly has approved the development and training committee's proposal to set up a consultancy board for the centre chaired by the AACO secretary general, and to include the EU representative in Amman as a member.

While awaiting construction of the permanent centre in Amman the AACO has decided to start training airline personnel at a rented building by October, said Mr. Toukan, adding that RJ Vice President for Training Mousa Anz has been nominated to serve as the centre's director.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

**FILM**

\* Bahayini film "The Barrier" (Arabic) at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

**EXHIBITIONS**

\* Abstract (plastic) art by Samar Sabat and Nadia Alwanah entitled "Peace in the Eyes of the Youth" at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also displaying works on national heritage by Yalla Charitable Society, until July 18.

\* Exhibition of works by Sudanese artist Rashid Diab entitled "The Time of Silence" at Darat Al Fanun, Jabal Weibdeh. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists, until July 31.

\* Black and White paintings exhibition of works conducted in half a century (1913-1966) entitled "Heureux Dimanche" at the French Cultural Centre, until July 20.



## Surprise Yeltsin 'vacation' overshadows Russian-U.S. talks

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin's surprise decision to take a two-week vacation Monday amid continuing speculation about his health overshadowed high-level Russian-U.S. trade talks here Monday.

The Kremlin announced that Mr. Yeltsin had postponed a meeting with U.S. Vice-President Al Gore and had left for a two-week vacation at Barvikha, a country dacha just west of Moscow, where he also rested last month after a hectic election campaign.

However, Kremlin spokesman Sergei Medvedev said that Mr. Yeltsin was in good health, and said he would meet Mr. Gore at the state dacha Tuesday.

Mr. Yeltsin would continue working on official documents, Mr. Medvedev said, and would hold meetings with senior officials, go on walks, swim and perhaps play tennis and hunt in the woods.

Speaking at a meeting with Mr. Gore, who arrived here Saturday, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Mr. Yeltsin "feels fine."

Mr. Yeltsin's wife Naina said after his July 3 election victory that the campaign had been tiring for him and he needed to rest.

On July 3 Mr. Yeltsin unexpectedly cancelled plans to vote at a polling station in Moscow, and instead cast his ballot at Barvikha, avoiding journalists.

In the run-up to the crucial second round run-off vote Mr. Yeltsin, who had two mild heart attacks last year, had not appeared in public for nine days, with officials

saying he was suffering from a lost voice and a cold.

Mr. Medvedev said Monday that Mr. Yeltsin's aides had advised him to go on holiday immediately after his victory, but he decided to postpone his vacation to discuss the formation of a new government.

Mr. Yeltsin's voice was still "slightly hoarse" from a cold he caught during an election trip to Kaliningrad, Mr. Medvedev said.

Doctors were ready to carry out a medical examination on Mr. Yeltsin during his vacation — the first such examination since his second bout of heart trouble last October, Mr. Medvedev added.

ITAR-TASS news agency reported that Mr. Yeltsin held talks at Barvikha Monday with Nikolai Yegorov, head of a state committee set up to prepare Mr. Yeltsin's swearing-in for a new four-year term on Aug. 9.

They discussed plans for the ceremony and for improving Mr. Yeltsin's Kremlin administration.

Meanwhile, Mr. Gore and Mr. Chernomyrdin discussed a wide range of bilateral issues, including economic and technological cooperation within the framework of the Russian-U.S. commission which they co-chair, Interfax News Agency reported.

The talks covered non-proliferation of fissile materials, conversion of biological weapons, the peaceful use of atomic energy, cooperation in traditional sources of energy, access to each other's markets and protection of intellectual

property, ITAR-TASS reported.

They also discussed joint projects in space, the economy, finance, the environment and health.

At a meeting of the joint commission later Mr. Chernomyrdin said that with Mr. Yeltsin's election victory there were "firm prospects for strengthening market relations in Russia, improving political institutions and expanding social guarantees."

Mr. Gore said the two countries needed to harmonise their tax and investment codes and tariff structures.

He said Mr. Yeltsin's victory was "a turning point in the history of Russia as a free nation," Interfax reported.

"There is a historic opportunity to go further in cooperation and mutual understanding," he added.

Oleg Davydov, Russian minister for foreign economic relations, told ITAR-TASS that Moscow wanted to "finally resolve the issue of granting Russia most favoured nation status in trade with the United States on a permanent basis."

He said Russia wanted the United States to lift remaining "discriminatory" restrictions on Russian exports, and to invest more in Russian high technology and export-oriented production.

Some 60 per cent of the nearly 1,000 Russian-U.S. joint ventures were engaged in the trade and service sectors, he noted.

In a separate development, former Deputy Pre-

mier Anatoly Chubais, a liberal who spearheaded the Russian privatisation programme, has been appointed head of the presidential administration and top advisor to President Boris Yeltsin, Russian news agencies said Monday.

Mr. Chubais will replace Nikolay Yegorov, who will direct preparations in view of President Yeltsin's inauguration for a second term in the Kremlin on Aug. 9.

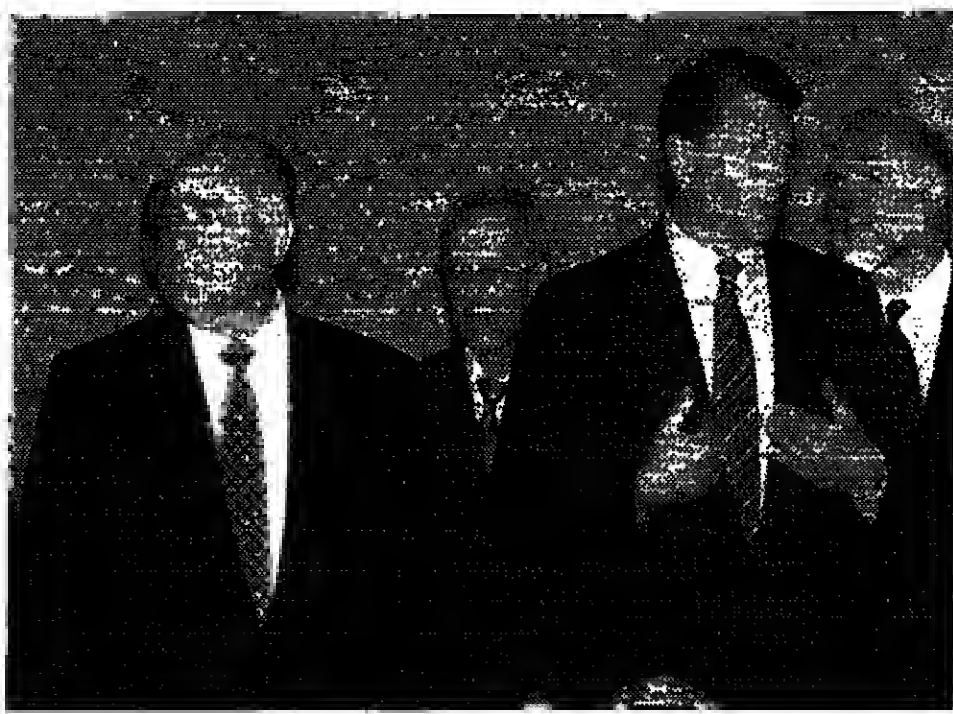
He would also replace Viktor Ilyushin, the president's top advisor.

Last January Mr. Chubais left the government, after the Communists scored a victory in the Russian parliamentary elections but he has since made a discreet comeback, standing alongside the president to head the financial aspects of his electoral campaign.

The dismissal between the two rounds of the presidential elections of two powerful figures, Alexandre Korzhakov, head of the Presidential Guard, and Mikhail Barsukov, head of the Russian Federal Security Service, was seen as a victory for Mr. Chubais and his allies, including Mr. Chernomyrdin.

Mr. Chubais' departure from the government in January came after Mr. Yeltsin blamed him for his party's poor showing in the December legislative elections.

His departure had sparked concern among Western governments which feared that it could mean an end to Mr. Yeltsin's privatisation programme.



U.S. Vice-President Al Gore (2nd from right) gestures prior to a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin (left) at the Russian White House Monday. The meeting, which lasted nearly one hour, focussed on issues concerning the seventh session of their joint commission on economic and technological cooperation which opened later Monday (Reuters photo)

## Tigers kill 4 civilians as Sri Lankan violence escalates

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil Tigers guerrillas have killed a defector and three other women in eastern Sri Lanka as violence escalated across the enclaved region, officials here said Monday.

Gunmen of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) shot dead the former comrade in the district of Batticaloa over the weekend and escaped after throwing grenades into his house, killing three others, officials said.

The attack came as security forces kept up an offensive against suspected LTTE positions in the jungles of Batticaloa that has left at least 22 rebels dead since its launch Wednesday, officials said.

There were no losses among security forces, a military spokesman here said, although several elite army commandos had been seriously wounded in a Tiger mortar bomb attack and anti-personnel mine explosions.

The LTTE denounced the government drive in a statement from its London office.

"The military operation is proving to be a disaster," the statement said, without giving details.

On Sunday, the Tiger guerrillas carried out their biggest attack against security forces in the northern peninsula of Jaffna since the region was retaken from rebel control in December.

Thirteen soldiers were killed and two others escaped with injuries when the Tigers overran an army bunker line at Sarassali in the Jaffna peninsula in a pre-dawn attack Sunday, officials said.

The military took control of the peninsula, the main bastion of the LTTE and the symbol of Tamil separatism, after a series of military operations begun in October.

Since then, Tiger infiltrators have been staging small-scale hit-and-run attacks against security forces and a suicide bomber killed 31 bystanders in an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the housing minister on July 4.

During the meeting, Mr. Lake also said the United States did not view China as a hostile country.

"China is not a threat and the United States does not intend to contain China," he told Defence Minister Hiroyuki Kuroda.

A high-ranking U.S. official accompanying Mr. Lake meanwhile told reporters that China's National Defence Minister Gen. Chi Haotian may visit Washington later this year, denying reports that Washington is rejecting a meeting between Mr. Chi and President Bill Clinton.

"We very much expect the defence minister to come to Washington in the near future," the unidentified official was quoted as saying by Kyodo.

Mr. Chi was to visit the United States last year, but his trip was postponed as Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui's visit to the United States angered China.

On proposed four-way peace talks on Korean peninsula, Mr. Lake told reporters that he was optimistic about a U.S.-South Korea joint briefing with North Korea on the issue, Kyodo said.

"I myself am and have been encouraged in the fact that North Koreans have taken this on, and are discussing it, and have not rejected it," Mr. Lake was quoted by Kyodo as saying.

While reiterating Washington does not expect an immediate answer from Pyongyang, Mr. Lake reportedly said: "We hope we can get into a joint briefing as soon as possible."

Mr. Lake reportedly said he predicted "serious situation" in food shortage in North Korea later this year.

"There is anecdotal evidence of very grave hunger in certain areas of North Korea," Kyodo quoted as him saying. "It certainly does suggest that between now and the harvest, which comes at the end of summer, that there is a serious situation."

4. Sunday's rebel attack at Sarassali was not totally unexpected. Government forces are considered insufficient to hold the 900-square-mile (2,340-square kilometre) Jaffna peninsula and also fight the Tigers in the east of the country.

As troops mounted pressure against the LTTE in the eastern districts the rebels were expected to step up their attacks in the north.

The renewed violence in the northern and eastern regions has prompted a security alert in the capital, especially after police uncovered a 100-kilo (220-pound) bomb at a suspected Tiger safe house here Friday, police said.

The Tigers have been waging a protracted campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated. More than 50,000 people have died in more than two decades of bitter fighting.

The legal process to end a marriage that began in a triumphant ceremony 15 years ago will appear at the bonhom of a list of 30 couples requesting "quickie" divorces at a London court. In six weeks time, the divorce should be complete.

Princess Diana, 35, has a trickier problem. Her wish, expressed in a controversial television interview last year, was to become a goodwill ambassador for Britain, "a queen of hearts."

The terms of the divorce, made public last Friday, dashed any such hopes. She will be humiliatingly stripped of the Her Royal Highness title and its privileges, but her public movements will remain strictly under the queen's control.

She will receive a divorce settlement estimated at around £17 million (\$26 million) and she is highly valued as a patron of dozens of charities, especially those working with children and AIDS victims.

But she apparently remains unfulfilled. She makes frequent visits to her analyst and has resorted to a bewildering array of "new age" health treatments in the search for contentment.

She is considered one of the most stylish and beautiful women in the world and she is certainly one of the most photographed. She is also said to long for more children, especially a daughter, having had two sons.

Tahloid journalist Andrew Morton, whose book Diana, Her True Story, published in 1992 unveiled her deep unhappiness in her marriage, said Princess Diana's greatest problems were her lack of confidence and her impulsiveness.

"The Princess of Wales is

a woman of instinct not forward planning. Today may be the first day of the rest of her life, but she has no idea what she's going to do tomorrow," Mr. Morton wrote.

The biggest question over Prince Charles' future is whether he will marry Camilla Parker Bowles, his long-time mistress who divorced last year. But there is public hostility to the prospect that she might become queen.

Newspapers said royal aides were investigating ways in which Prince Charles might marry Ms. Parker Bowles without her becoming queen on his accession to the throne.

He is now expected to increase his royal duties. "There is no question of the queen abdicating, but she wants to turn some of the sunbats onto her son," the Sunday Times quoted a royal source as saying.

Divorce proceedings between Prince Charles and Princess Diana took a step forward Monday after London's High Court granted the royal couple a provisional decree.

The legal procedure lasted a mere two minutes and neither of the two parties was present in court.

On Aug. 28, a mere six weeks after the provisional decree, Prince Charles and Princess Diana are to be divorced.

The speed of the divorce proceedings has been made possible because the couple, for all the past bitterness, have come to an amicable agreement, and because they have been living apart for more than two years, their lawyers said Friday.

Prince Charles served an affidavit to the court, explaining his reasons for lodging divorce proceedings. The prince said that "both myself and the respondent (Diana) recognised there were irreconcilable differences and that accordingly we could no longer live together."

The prince added that divorce proceedings had become unavoidable and "this reflected my own belief that the marriage was at an end."

## Question mark hangs over Diana's role

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana's doomed marriage to Prince Charles reaches the divorce court Monday, with uncertainty hanging over what future role she will manage to carve out for herself.

The legal process to end a marriage that began in a triumphant ceremony 15 years ago will appear at the bonhom of a list of 30 couples requesting "quickie" divorces at a London court. In six weeks time, the divorce should be complete.

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On Aug. 28, a mere six weeks after the provisional decree, Prince Charles and Princess Diana are to be divorced.

## Uganda accuses rebels of killing 91 refugees

KAMPALA (AFP) — The Ugandan military Monday accused the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) of killing 91 Sudanese refugees in an attack on a camp near the northern town of Kitgum last week.

The attack on the Acholi-Pii Refugee Camp, which houses some 16,000 refugees from strife-torn southern Sudan, was carried out Friday, military sources said.

A spokesman for the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) confirmed the attack, adding that the raiders had burned a truck hired by the agency to transport relief supplies to the refugees. The lorry's driver was missing, Michele Quintaglio said.

The attackers also torched a food store in the camp and damaged another one during the raid.

LRA rebels, headed by former Roman Catholic catechist Joseph Kony, are fighting from bases in northern Uganda ostensibly to overthrow the government of President Yoweri Museveni.

Ms. Quintaglio said the agency was caring for some 216,000 refugees who fled the war between Sudanese government forces and mainly Christian and animist rebel groups in southern Sudan.

Food convoys to northern Uganda are routinely escorted by the Ugandan army, but security in the area

city Monday to add to protests against the "made in Africa" peace formula.

"We are categorically against foreign intervention. We the youth are ready to fight for our country," read one placard.

Burundi's Tutsis fear the initiative could eventually neutralise their hold on the army which is battling CNDD's Hutu rebels in a ferocious war claiming 1,000 lives a month.

The plan involves sending troops from Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania to Burundi. It was agreed at an African summit in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha last month and endorsed at the summit of the Organisation of African Unity

(OAU) last week.

"The Arusha summit responded positively to the request (from Burundi) for foreign troops) without taking into account the forces present at the battlefield or at least consulting all parties to the conflict," Mr. Nyangoma said in the statement.

"The lack of consultations with us (CNDD) on this sensitive matter of foreign troops is particularly painful because we have held several contacts with the mediator," added Mr. Nyangoma.

Mediator Julius Nyerere, Tanzania's former president, warned Friday that Burundi risked "peace enforcement" by powerful neighbours if all parties failed to agree on the peace

plan.

Mr. Nyerere told Reuters that Africa must not allow Burundi to degenerate into genocidal killings as happened in neighbouring Rwanda, where up to a million people died in 1994.

But he said he understood fears by the exiled CNDD and that he would meet its leadership soon to allay these fears.

Mr. Nyangoma is believed by diplomats to be based in eastern Zaire. CNDD has recently stepped up its guerrilla war, launching raids inside Burundian suburbs and making the northwest a no-go area for the army.

More than 150,000 people have died over the past three years in fighting between

## U.S. firmly opposed to Ghali's reelection as U.N. chief

TOKYO (AFP) — U.S. National Security Advisor Anthony Lake Monday spelt out the United States' opposition to the reelection of U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Kyodo News Agency said Mr. Lake, who arrived Sunday, reiterated that Washington was against Dr. Ghali's return for a second term in office but did not seek to point over his successes as U.N. chief, it said.

Mr. Lake made the remarks at a meeting here with Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, Kyodo said. Mr. Ikeda made no comment. Elections for the U.N. leadership are scheduled for this fall, but last month, the United States announced its decision to oppose Dr. Ghali's second term.

Washington cited his reluctance to pursue U.S. demands for financial reform and downsizing of the world organisation as well as differences over the future activities of U.N. peacekeeping operations.

During the meeting, Mr. Lake also said the United States did not view China as a hostile country.

"China is not a threat and the United States does not intend to contain China," he told Defence Minister Hiroyuki Kuroda.

A high-ranking U.S. official accompanying Mr. Lake meanwhile told reporters that China's National Defence Minister Gen. Chi Haotian may visit Washington later this year, denying reports that Washington is rejecting a meeting between Mr. Chi and President Bill Clinton.

"We very much expect the defence minister to come to Washington in the near future," the unidentified official was quoted as saying by Kyodo.

Mr. Chi was to visit the United States last year, but his trip was postponed as Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui's visit to the United States angered China.

On proposed four-way peace talks on Korean peninsula, Mr. Lake told reporters that he was optimistic about a U.S.-South Korea joint briefing with North Korea on the issue, Kyodo said.

"I myself am and have been encouraged in the fact that North Koreans have taken this on, and are discussing it, and have not rejected it," Mr. Lake was quoted by Kyodo as saying.

While reiterating Washington does not expect an immediate answer from Pyongyang, Mr. Lake reportedly said: "We hope we can get into a joint briefing as soon as possible."

Mr. Lake reportedly said he predicted "serious situation" in food shortage in North Korea later this year.

"There is anecdotal evidence of very grave hunger in certain areas of North Korea," Kyodo quoted as him saying. "It certainly does suggest that between now and the harvest, which comes at the end of summer, that there is a serious situation."

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## Gregory Peck in stable condition at hospital

PRAGUE (R) — U.S. film star Gregory Peck was in stable condition following emergency surgery for a suspected intestinal ailment Sunday shortly after receiving a Czech movie award, the Czech News Agency (CTK) reported.

Hospital officials in the western Czech city of Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) said the 80-year-old actor had undergone abdominal surgery and should remain in hospital for about one week, CTK said.

Peck was taken to hospital shortly after receiving a lifetime achievement award Saturday evening at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival. Word of his illness spread quickly throughout the festival, which was celebrating its 31st anniversary.

Playwright-turned-President Vaclav Havel, who was at the awards ceremony, sent a telegram to Peck's bedside wishing him well.

Peck, a lean, square-jawed sex symbol in his early years, became a Hollywood symbol of moral strength and sincerity both in the movies and as a community activist. His Oscar-winning performance as an embattled small-town lawyer in the 1962 film *To Kill a Mockingbird* typified his strong but kind on-screen personality.

As troops mounted pressure against the LTTE in the eastern districts the rebels were expected to step up their attacks in the north.

The renewed violence in the northern and eastern regions has prompted a security alert in the capital, especially after police uncovered a 100-kilo (220-pound) bomb at a suspected Tiger safe house here Friday, police said.

The Tigers have been waging a protracted campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated. More than 50,000 people have died in more than two decades of bitter fighting.

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Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah (left) and other officials at a ceremony in Bandar Seri Begawan Monday.

BRUNEI (AFP) — The Sultan of Brunei, Hassanal Bolkiah, was in good health and was expected to attend the ceremony on Monday.

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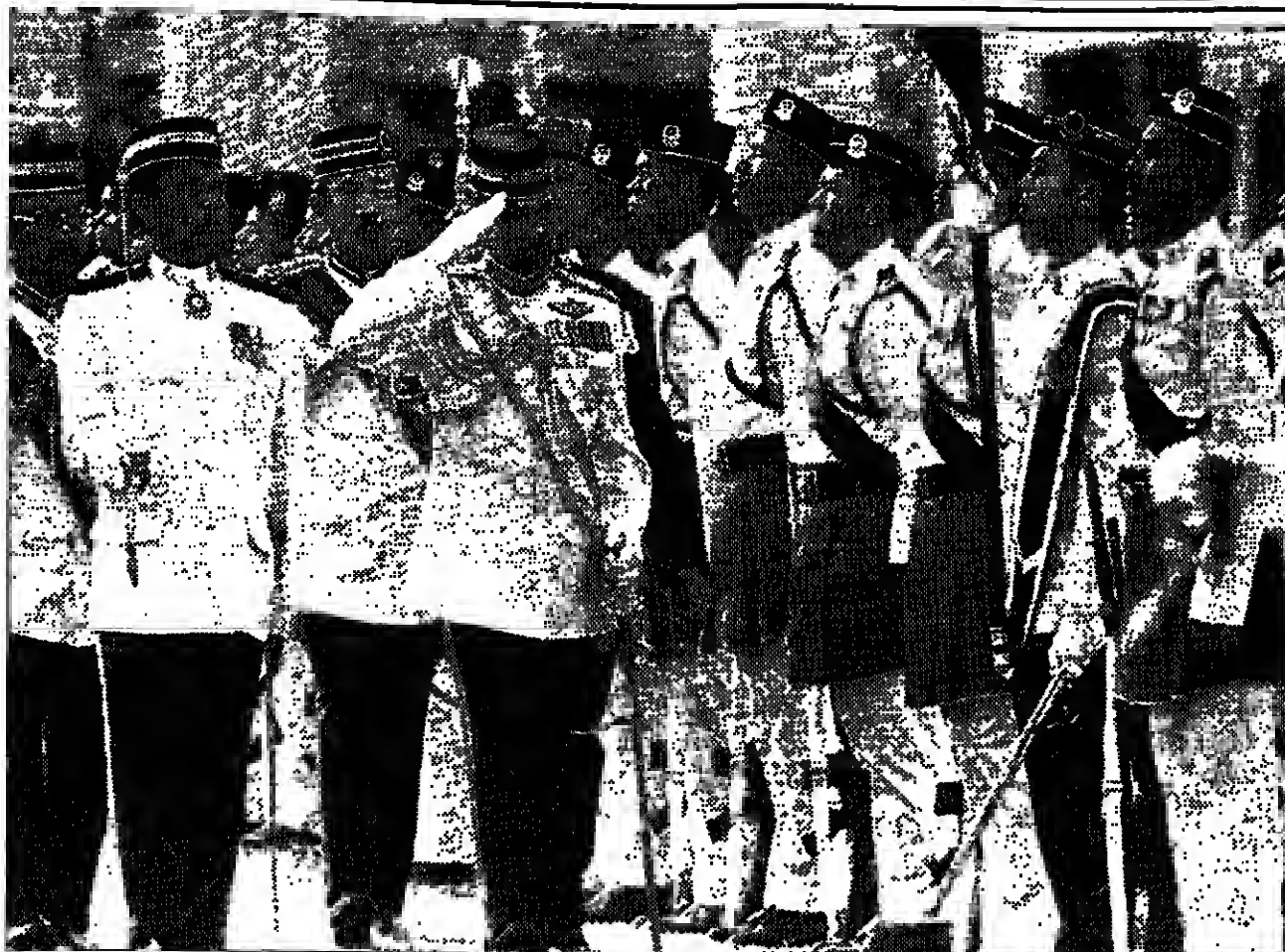


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The Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah (centre) inspects the Royal-guard-of-honour during the sultan's birthday parade in Bandar Seri Begawan Monday. The sultan is celebrating his 50th birthday with Prince Charles and Michael Jackson among others as his guests (Reuter photo)

## Sultan of Brunei celebrates 50th birthday

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (AFP) — Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, reputedly the world's richest man, celebrated his 50th birthday Monday with a promise to broaden the base of the tiny kingdom's oil-dependent economy.

Speaking at an investiture ceremony to mark his birthday, the ruler said human resources development would be specially stepped up in line with moves to turn Brunei into a services hub for trade and tourism by 2003.

Oil and gas, which account for more than 95 per cent of export revenues, have turned Brunei, which gained independence from Britain in 1984, into one of the world's wealthiest countries.

But present-day oil and gas reserves are expected to last for only about 20 years at current production rates, officials said.

Brunei, located on Borneo Island, produces some 150,000 barrels of oil and 25 million cubic metres (875 million cubic feet) of gas per day, according to published figures.

The sultan said: "Even though it is more opportune now for Brunei to diversify its economy compared with 20 years ago, it will only be achieved if the youth equipped themselves with skills."

The skills were necessary to generate industries that were value-added and based on high technology, he said in his speech, which did not touch on democracy.

The sultan, reputedly the richest man in the world with a fortune estimated at more than \$30 billion, is also prime minister and defence minister of Brunei, whose 300,000 people are predominantly ethnic Malays.

He wields absolute power over his kingdom. In 1993, the sultan allowed the setting up of village or province level committees in which members are appointed to "fine-tune and strengthen the political system at the grassroots level," officials said.

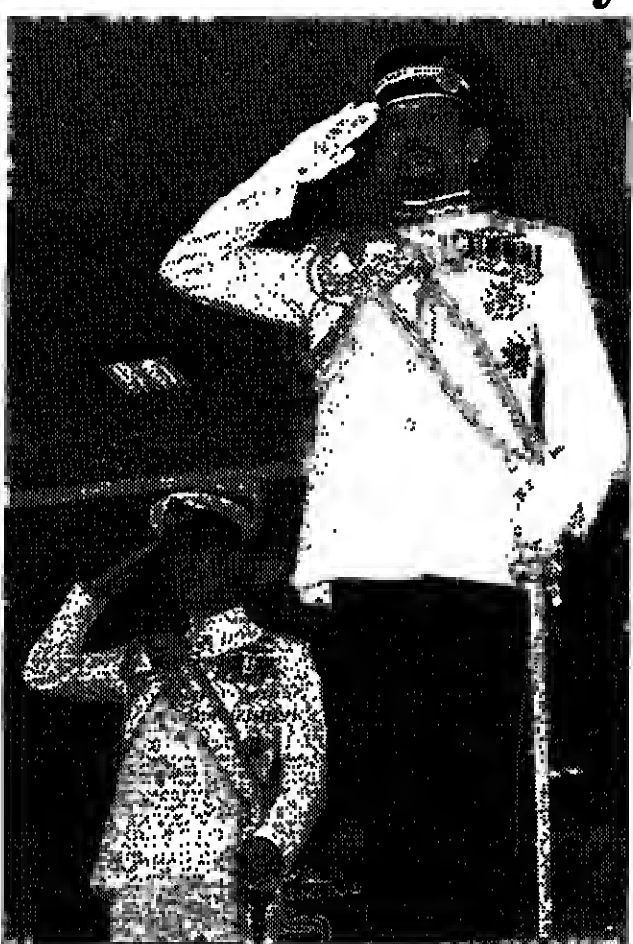
The sultan said economic diversification would also be based on moves to turn Brunei into a service hub for trade and tourism for the eastern part of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) region.

Brunei, together with the eastern part of Malaysia, the southern Philippines and northern area of Indonesia come under the East ASEAN growth area where the nations use their comparative advantage to spur economic growth.

The other ASEAN members are Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The sultan stressed that government efforts to inject Islamic values into the administration structure would be hastened while economic growth was stepped up.

"We will step into the 21st century, fully dedicated to



Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah (right) and Britain's Prince Charles salute members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces as they march past during a parade in Bandar Seri Begawan Monday (Reuter photo)

bring about a new ray of light to the people and the country," he said.

The sultan's birthday is the premier event in the national calendar of Brunei. A host of foreign dignitaries, among them Britain's Prince Charles, are here to attend the celebrations, which include a concert by pop star Michael Jackson Tuesday.

## Chirac stands firm but fails to impress

PARIS (R) — The late French President Francois Mitterrand handed over office to his successor, Jacques Chirac, with a private joke, biographer Georges-Marc Benhamou recounts.

It went something like this: A great statesman leaving power after a long reign hands three sealed envelopes to his successor and advises him to open one each time he is in trouble.

After a year, the new leader opens the first envelope. It says: "Blame your predecessor." Some time later, he is forced to open the second. It says: "Blame the international situation."

Eventually, he has to open the third one. It says: "Prepare three envelopes."

On Sunday, 14 months after taking over from the old Socialist fox, Mr. Chirac opened the first envelope.

In the Bastille Day television interview that traditionally closes the political season, he blamed his pre-

decessors for most of France's ills, from near record unemployment to excessive deficits, crippling tax rates, loss-making banks and campuses riddled with asbestos.

The rest he blamed on the bad habits of the French people, unwilling to adapt to change, or the independent Bank of France, reluctant to cut interest rates.

Under pressure from critics in his centre-right coalition and from the influential newspaper Le Monde to fire Prime Minister Alain Juppe and adopt less austere, more refractory economic policies, Mr. Chirac stood firm and pleaded for time.

But to judge from Monday's editorials, he failed to impress.

"Chirac changes nothing," was the headline of the biggest-selling national tabloid Le Parisien.

"For all its qualities, this presidential communication exercise, devoid of new content, failed to lift the fog

obscuring the citizens' future," the paper said in an editorial.

"Jacques Chirac did nothing more than repeat his speech of last Oct. 26 calling for austerity and belt-tightening."

In what was seen as a turning point of his presidency after initial attempts at refutation to combat unemployment, Mr. Chirac declared last October that bringing down the public sector deficit so that France could qualify to join a single European currency in 1999 was his top priority.

The conservative, pro-government Le Figaro said Mr. Chirac had succeeded in the role of "great explainer," clarifying the causes of France's ills and making clear he was calm, determined and would not be blown off course.

The left-of-centre daily Liberation called his performance anaemic, saying that despite the build-up by presidential spin-doctors, he

"bad produced no rabbit out of his hat."

"What an amazing method: Saying (as Mr. Chirac said) that 'France has let itself go' means you can blame everyone — except those in government," Liberation said.

The financial daily La Tribune said Mr. Chirac had analysed the national mood of gloom and scepticism accurately but failed to provide the necessary shock therapy.

"The economy won't start up again without a psychological and political electric shock. Close friends of Jacques Chirac are pressing him strongly to change his prime minister to get the country off on the right foot after the summer break," the paper said.

While noting that Mr. Chirac had refused Sunday to drop Mr. Juppe, it suggested that "reason and vox populi" might soon get the better of his loyalty to the prime minister.

## Residents left shaken by French Alpine earthquake

ANNECY, France (AFP) — An earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale left residents shaken after striking the Alpine region of southeastern France overnight, but caused only one slight injury.

The prefecture said tremors from the quake could be felt about 100 kilometres away, in the French cities of Lyon and Grenoble as well as in Switzerland around Geneva.

It shook mountain residents awake in the Haute Savoie at 2:13 a.m. (0013 GMT), when it struck between the

towns of Cruseilles and La Roche-Sur-Foron, 30 kilometres northeast of Annecy.

An undetectable aftershock came 15 minutes later, followed by a mild tremor at 8:00 a.m. (0600 GMT), the Strasbourg Observatory said.

On the Richter Scale, which measures the magnitude of energy a quake gives off, 5.2 is considered fairly strong but not violent.

Japan's Kobe earthquake on Jan. 17, 1995 measured 7.2 on the Richter Scale and killed about 5,500 people.

Flying glass superficially injured one Haute Savoie resident. But residents were terrified when the earthquake broke windows and chimneys, cracked walls, destroyed roofs and cars and cut off electrical power.

In Annecy witnesses said a loud rumbling lasted around 30 seconds.

Townpeople filled the streets in the hours before dawn and flooded rescue workers with hundreds of phone calls. At midday phone lines were jammed with anxious calls from friends and family, France Telecom said.

## Thousands of Catholics salute N. Ireland unrest victim

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (R) — Thousands of Catholics turned out Monday when Dermot McShane, the first person killed in unrest sweeping Northern Ireland, was buried alongside dozens of other victims of the 27-year conflict.

"Scarcely in the 21 years that I have been here have I found people so depressed and saddened, almost to the point of despair," parish priest Coo McLaughlin told hundreds packing Long Tower Church overlooking the Republican Bogside area.

McShane, a convicted bomber of the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA), died Saturday after being struck the night before by an army vehicle confronting a mob of petrol bomb-throwing youths rioting in the province's second city.

His coffin was draped in the green, white and orange tricolour flag of the Irish Republic with which McShane wanted Northern Ireland reunited, like many Roman Catholics in Londonderry, the birthplace of militant Irish nationalism.

He was not given an armed salute by men in masks and berets, the traditional sendoff the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and its sister organisations give their dead. McShane's family said they did not want it.

Police watched from a discreet distance as McShane's cortege, followed by thousands of mourners, made its way to the city cemetery which contains the graves of dead IRA activists.

It is also the burial ground of 13 people killed on Jan.

30, 1972, by British army troops in what became known as bloody Sunday and which became a rallying point for Catholics against British rule of the province.

McShane served 4-1/2 years in the 1980s for bombing and membership of the breakaway INLA but was not an active member when he was knocked down in rioting which has pushed the province to the brink of a return to wholesale violence.

"Practically every family in this parish has suffered in some way during these troubles," the priest said.

"The hope had been that just maybe the nightmare was over and that all, especially the young, could look forward to a brighter future. The events of the last days have caused us all to relive the nightmare of past years," he said.

After days of ferocious rioting in Belfast, Londonderry and other towns, an uneasy calm descended on the strife-torn province Monday, which is a public holiday.

"That was the quietest night we've had in the last seven days," a police spokesman said at the start of a critical week for the province. "There were isolated incidents, but not the same number or the same type as in the past days."

Martin McGuinness, negotiator for the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, said he hoped the situation would calm to allow time for reflection on what he called "British mismanagement of the peace process."

A bomb at a hotel in Enniskillen Sunday which

injured 17 people blew holes in Anglo-Irish attempts to reconcile pro-British Protestants and pro-Irish Catholics, and raised the prospect of retaliation by Protestant "loyalist" guerrillas.

David Irvine of the Progressive Unionist Party, which is close to one loyalist group, said that police suspicion that the hotel blast was the work of the breakaway Republican Sinn Fein and not the IRA lessened the chance of retaliation.

"And indeed thank goodness because the presumption by all was that the provisional IRA was responsible for the bomb in Enniskillen. The fact that they are distancing themselves from that bomb gives a little time and space to loyalists," he said.

Meanwhile British anti-terrorist police discovered a London bomb factory Monday and arrested several men in what was believed to be a severe blow against Irish nationalist guerrillas. Residents in a South London street cordoned off by police overnight reported hearing gunfire during the swoop, which followed the revival of an IRA bombing campaign in Britain and Germany.

"I heard gunshots, probably about seven of them, at around 2:30 last night. I waited until I heard the police arrive and then I went to have a look," airline worker Hilary Williams told reporters.

"I could see someone lying on the pavement and police attending to them. The police were here all night." Police declined to specify

bow many men were arrested in raids in South London but said they had recovered a "large quantity" of bomb-making material.

The arrested men were being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, normally used to counter guerrilla activities linked to the Northern Ireland conflict.

It was the second large find of bomb-making material in London since the Irish Republican Army ended a 17-month ceasefire in February in protest against what it saw as British intransigence in the Northern Ireland peace process.

In February police discovered large amounts of Semtex explosives and other bomb-making material at the London home of an IRA guerrilla after he killed himself with his own device on a London bus.

The IRA have planted seven bombs in Britain since February including a truck bomb which blew up a shopping centre in the northern city of Manchester last month, injuring about 200 people.

Police hunting the Manchester bombers said Monday they believed they had found the getaway car used in the attack.

Two weeks ago IRA guerrillas targeted British servicemen abroad for the first time in six years, firing three mortars at an army base in Osnabrueck, Germany. There were no injuries but several buildings were badly damaged.

Monday's arrests followed a joint campaign by police and the MI5 security service.

## 60 killed in Indian festival stampedes

UJJAIN, India (R) — Sixty Hindu worshippers were crushed or suffocated to death and scores were injured in dawn stampedes in India Monday as they gathered to celebrate a New Moon Festival.

Officials said thirty-nine people, including five children, were killed and dozens injured in the town of Ujjain in central Madhya Pradesh state when a crowd of worshippers surged down a narrow staircase inside a temple complex.

At least 21 more were killed and 40 seriously injured when devotees rushed to bathe in the Ganges River in the northern town of Haridwar, the United News of India (UNI) said.

Eighteen of the dead were women.

Both incidents occurred as worshippers gathered for the Hindu New Moon Festival.

Officials said dozens of the roughly 200,000 devotees in Ujjain were trampled underfoot as they raced down marble steps to a temple at least 32 feet (10 metres) below ground level.

"The whole tragedy took place in the space of a few moments. Initially a few people fell, then others followed. The new marble stairs were slippery," said Raman Trivedi, one of the temple priests.

"The toll is likely to go up," said G.B. Bajpai, a senior hospital officer in Ujjain, which is 500 kilometres south of New Delhi. "Most of the victims died from suffocation."

He said seven of the 35 injured were in serious condition.

Eyewitnesses said thousands of devotees, mostly farmers, had gathered Sunday night to ensure early entry into the temple.

"Its tragic, most of them had come to thank God for the rains," an eyewitness at the hospital quoted Commissioner of Ujjain P.S. Tomar as saying.



Chechen villagers inspect a Russian BMP light tank destroyed in a fierce battle last week between troops and separatist rebels in the town of Gekhi. The fallen helmets in the foreground testify to the bitter house-to-house struggle which was accompanied by an aerial bombardment of Gekhi (Reuter photo)

## Chechen rebels kill 4 Russian troops; OSCE seeks to revive peace process

MOSCOW (AFP) — Chechen separatist guerrillas killed four Russian troops and wounded 31 in overnight attacks, Interfax News Agency quoted the federal command as saying. An international mediators tried to revive moribund peace talks.

Nine Russian Interior Ministry troops were also lightly wounded in the Chechen capital Grozny Monday when their armoured personnel carrier came under fire from machine guns and grenade launchers, Russian officials told Interfax.

At the weekend Tim Guldin, head of the Grozny mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), held talks in Moscow with Russian government officials in a bid to revive the peace process, which was shattered by a major Russian offensive launched last Tuesday.

Interfax said Mr. Guldin, who mediated in peace talks held in Moscow and the Ingush capital Nazran in May and June, met Sergei Stepanov and Vladimir Zorin — both senior members of the Russian negotiating team.

No new date was set for further peace talks.

The two sides signed a



A 93-year-old Chechen woman who survived the fierce four-day battle between Russian troops and separatist rebels is helped through the ruins of the town of Gekhi by Chechen police commandos loyal to Moscow (Reuter photo)

peace accord on June 10 providing for a Russian troop withdrawal from the north Caucasus republic, demilitarisation and local elections in which the rebels would participate.

But Russian troops, backed by warplanes and heavy artillery, launched a major offensive against rebel villages in southern Chechnya last week, notably Mekhketi and Gekhi.

Chechen rebel spokesman Movladi Udugov said 400

civilians and 25 Chechen fighters were killed in the Russian offensive, which shattered a fragile six-week-old ceasefire.

However, there was no independent confirmation of the casualty toll.

The 19-month war in Chechnya, triggered by a massive Russian military intervention in December 1994 aimed at crushing a three-year Chechen independence drive, has killed an estimated 40,000 people, mostly civilians.



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1977.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Representatives — not guardians

THE GOVERNMENT did right by distancing itself from the informal meeting of Parliament yesterday which was devoted to discussing the tabloids' coverage of issues pertaining to national unity and public decency.

The four-hour meeting, according to Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour, resolved that the House "should make its position clear as regards the protection of national unity." Mr. Srour added that the deputies had agreed on the necessity of enforcing the law or enacting new laws that would ensure "no offence is made to our... Arab and Muslim ethics and our customs."

What seems to have angered our honorable deputies was a number of articles that appeared in the weeklies discussing the present and future relations between Jordanians and Jordanians of Palestinian origin. In addition, the deputies, as do some citizens, are agitated by the tabloids' display of half-naked women photos and their graphic description of crime and passion stories.

It is, of course, normal in any conservative society to expect such a reaction to the way the tabloids conduct journalism. Even in more liberal societies like the U.S., Britain or Germany, the tabloids have come under increasing pressure. Yet in Jordan, unlike in the West, the tabloid press has been refraining, due to multiple factors, from prying into people's private lives. Like in the West, however, the tabloids have been attracting increasing numbers of readers because of their more daring coverage of political and social issues. When compared to the mainstream media, the weekly tabloids have been more aggressive and more critical in both their news coverage and their views. However, due to lack of information and government secrecy, the tabloids' credibility has always been in doubt.

In accordance with the Constitution, freedom of expression and of the press are guaranteed "within the limits of the law." And the law is the domain of the judiciary to enforce. While Parliament like any other body has the right to pronounce itself on all matters pertaining to Jordan and Jordanians, we think its campaign on the tabloid press will ultimately lead to suppression of freedom of expression. Whether people want, or do not want, to read what the tabloids print should be left to people themselves to decide. Deputies are rightly their representatives but they are not their guardians.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON a hunger strike of detainees in the central Nablus prison on the West Bank, Yasser Zaareh, a writer for Al-Dustour, said that the detainees' protest is justified since they have been held without trial for four months. The writer alleged that the detainees have been subjected to various forms of torture with the sole purpose of pleasing the new Israeli government and against the interest of the Palestinian nation. The writer accused the Palestine National Authority of conducting systematic repressive acts and torture against the opposition groups, including the Islamists, prompting the detainees to stage a hunger strike and the Palestinian people to stage demonstrations to back the detainees' stand. He said the situation in the self-rule areas has deteriorated to such a degree that the Palestinians started wishing the Israeli rule were reinstated, to replace the Palestine authority. The writer urged the members of the Palestine legislative council, intellectuals, writers and peace activists to undertake immediate and urgent steps to put an end to the deteriorating situation and stop the Palestine authority from further repressing the oppressed people of Palestine who had suffered for many years under Israeli occupation. He warned that the masses can never forget or forgive their tormentors and would never cease to back those who seek genuine freedom for the Palestinian people.

SULTAN AL Hattab, a writer for Al-Ra'i, backed the demands of the Jordanian doctors employed in government hospitals and health centres for better pay and better work conditions and said they deserve to be treated like their colleagues in the private sector so that they can remain dedicated to their service of their nation. In order to improve health services, the country must make sure that its doctors pursue plans for raising their standards and their qualifications through scholarships, refresher courses and seminars, said the writer. Doctors employed by the Ministry of Health are deprived of these incentives and, more importantly, they are banned from opening private clinics after working hours at the hospitals to ensure additional income for their families. In contrast, the doctors of the private hospitals and those employed by the Royal medical services are constantly improving their positions financially and professionally, he noted. The writer said that for six years, successive governments in Jordan have been discussing ways of improving the doctors' positions, but no practical step has been taken to date to enable them to achieve that goal. What the country needs, he added, is a very efficient public health service which will be an advantage not only to the doctors themselves but also to the country as a whole.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# Netanyahu's dazzling theology, ideology and political hucksterism

By Rami G. Khouri

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speeches during his visit to the United States, especially his remarks to the joint session of the U.S. Congress, have clarified much about this complex, politically powerful man. We may not like what we hear, but this is irrelevant in the coming several years, given his victory among Jewish Israelis, his strong support in the U.S. Congress, and the obvious willingness of the American leadership to adjust the U.S. policy vis-à-vis Palestinian and other Arab rights in the negotiations with Israel to suit his Likudnik inclinations.

We need to understand what this man represents and how to deal with him, if we are to avoid renewed all-out Arab-Israeli war and to achieve the blessed promise of justice, peace and progress for all the Semites of this region, and not only for the Jewish Semites amongst us.

We are starting to hear more coherent and thematic expressions of the important ideologies, theologies and pragmatic political hucksterism that he represents. To me, the striking aspect of his behaviour since his election is that he has placed much more emphasis on domestic Israeli economic and social issues than on Arab-Israeli peace matters. Making peace with the Arabs is an attractive possibility for him, but neither an urgent nor a compelling priority. Far more important to his electoral fortunes — and this is the most, perhaps the only, meaningful measure of virtue in his world — is his ability to restructure the Israeli economy so that Israelis feel at once prosperous, strong, self-reliant and, therefore, increasingly immune to external political pressures. He speaks of domestic Israeli reforms with excitement, innovation, fortitude, but he speaks of Arab-Israeli peace in the vocabulary of stalemate and discord, not expecting much, not offering much.

This focus on promoting an economically stronger, more self-reliant Israel probably represents the essential core of his ideology and political theology. We have to study in depth Mr Netanyahu's domestic message, along with his repositioning of the Jewish people vis-à-vis the United States and Western civilisation as a whole, in order to fully appreciate his attitude and policies towards the Arab and Islamic world all around him. While we dislike what we hear from him, we must continue listening in order to comprehend this rather spectacular political leader. The totality of his recent public pronouncements in Israel and the United States suggest that he is attempting something far more ambitious and audacious than merely responding to the security fears of Israeli has commuters. Here are some excerpts from his speech to the U.S. Congress:

"(The U.S. and Israeli people) share a total commitment to democracy, and infinite dedication to freedom. We have a common vision of how societies should be governed, of how civilisation should be advanced... (my emphasis)

"We admire America for its moral force. As Jews and as Israelis we are proud that this moral force is derived from the Bible and the precepts of morality that the Jewish people have given the world."

"It has been our great fortune that, in the second half of this century, with the miraculous renewal of Jewish nationhood, the United States became the preeminent power in the world... You stood by us time and time again, against the forces of tyranny and totalitarianism..."

"What we are facing in the Middle East today is a broad

front of terror throughout the area. Its common goal is to remove any Western, and primarily any American, presence in the Middle East. It seeks to break our will, to shatter our resolve, to make us yield... Neither Israel nor any other democracy, and certainly not the United States, must ever bend to terrorism."

"It's time to demand a peace based on norms and standards. It is time, I believe, for a code of conduct for building a lasting Middle East peace... based on the three pillars of peace: security, reciprocity and democracy and human rights... It is time for the states of the Middle East to put the issue of human rights and democratisation on their agenda. Until this democratisation becomes a mainstay of the region, the proper course for the democratic world, led by the United States, is to strengthen the only democracy in the Middle East (Israel)."

"If this (Iranian) regime or its despotic neighbour Iraq were to acquire nuclear weapons, this could presage catastrophic consequences, not only for my country, and not only for the Middle East, but for all humankind. I believe the international community must reinvestigate its efforts to isolate these regimes."

"We must uphold the market economy as the imperative of the future. It's a crucial prerequisite for the building of the promised land."

"In the coming years, we intend to strengthen the Jewish people in its land. We shall insist on the right of Jews to live anywhere in the land, just as we insist on this right for Jews in any other place in the world. We will build an Israel of self-reliance."

While Netanyahu has said nothing new about his negotiating posture with the Arabs, he has sketched out an extraordinary new landscape of messianic political theology that attempts in one fell swoop to achieve several enormous goals:

1. He repositions the state of Israel today in the community of nations by relativising and slightly inflating the role of the Jewish people in the history of human civilisation. Israel is not merely an impressive modern state, he implies; it is also the fountainhead of biblical morality that the Jewish people gave to the world and that has inspired an infinite dedication to freedom and democracy today.

2. He rekindles and repackages the traditional (and very real) Jewish sense of vulnerability to persecution by others; he reminds Americans that they failed the Jews during the Holocaust, and thus should remain vigilant never to do so again. He hails the strength of Israel and the Jewish people, and basks in the new vision of power and self-reliance as the attributes that have replaced Jewish vulnerability and suffering. He will make Israel grow stronger and bigger, regardless of others in the region who may lose in the process.

3. Netanyahu moves from history to the present, and redefines Israel vis-à-vis the West and the United States, bringing up to date the modern Zionist penchant to package itself in terms that are marketable in the West and the United States in particular. He says Israel shows the way for democracy and human rights in the Middle East, it rings alarm bells about Arab-Islamic despotism and access to weapons of mass destruction that threaten the entire world, and it works to establish new, civilised norms and standards for those Middle Easterners who seek peace.

Having previously denominated itself in the marketplace of Western nationhood on the consecutive bases of fighting the spread of communism, protecting Western access to Mideast oil and countering Islamic fundamentalism, Benjamin Netanyahu's Israel now sells itself simultaneously as the promoter of Mideast democracy and human rights and the bulwark against Mideastern nuclear terror. In so doing, sadly, he also tacitly redefines Israel's apartheid-like, racist-like attitude to Arabs and Muslims, using the very à la mode imagery and language of telegraphic modernity.

4. The Netanyahu phenomenon has started to redefine the most fundamental criteria of progress towards peace and justice in the Middle East. We are now expected, for example, to be pleased that Israelis and Syrians or Israelis and Palestinians are merely meeting, for to meet, and not necessarily to achieve progress, is now a major achievement. This is what the new rule book and scorecard will look like. We in the Arab World find them very perplexing, inappropriate and unfair; but this does not seem to make much difference, according to the new rules and criteria, and the new norms and standards.

5. Finally, Mr Netanyahu throws in the promise of the free market; this aims not only to promote prosperity for Israelis, but also "to build the promised land" — in other words, to complete the job that Moses started, using modern values jointly developed in the United States and Israel, the world's oldest and strongest wellspring of democratic values, freedom and market-based prosperity.

It is a dazzling, almost dizzying performance, epic in its historical sweep, impressive in its multi-sectoral synthesis of religion, human dignity and modern political history, and as profound in its intentions as it is vulgar in its mercantile political transparency. The theology, morality and hucksterism blend awkwardly. Yet, Mr Netanyahu's performance on his new world stage represents something very important: a long overdue attempt to modernise Zionist ideology, pull it out of its colonialism-based 19th century European roots, and reposition Israel globally in terms of the three most powerful forces that define the world today: the entertainment values of American politicians and mass media, the market expansion and penetration imperatives of U.S.-led democratic capitalism, and the predominantly white and Christian Western world's fears of being overwhelmed by the political anger, personal desperation and national economic insolvency of the predominantly non-Christian, non-white states of the developing South.

The phenomenon of Benjamin Netanyahu is about this and more. It is about a Jewish-based worldview that has been largely successful in the past century because it has always viewed the security of Jews and the well-being of Israel within a very wide global context — one that recognises, exploits and builds on the depth of the historical, emotional, guilt, and moral relationships between Judaism, Western Christianity and the modern political history of the North Atlantic-Euro-Mediterranean world. It remains to be seen if Benjamin Netanyahu's vision is a private dream or is shared by a majority of Israelis and Israel's supporters around the world. He challenges us, and his own people, in a way that any of us have not been challenged in a very long time.

## Israel's peace — dictated from the victor's position

By G.H. Jansen

MORE SIGNIFICANT than the several controversial decisions announced by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his address to a joint session of the American Congress was the new mood on the Middle Eastern political scene, created by his words.

It is never easy to pin down a political mood which is bound to be nuanced, but in the case of the Israeli prime minister it was, quite openly, supremely confident and triumphant.

And why should it not be so? Because in the last few months — thanks to the cooperation and capitulation proffered by Yasser Arafat and his Palestinian Authority — Israel is now uncontestedly the major power in the region.

So it was Netanyahu, speaking for Israel, who laid down the necessary qualities of the peace between Arabs and Israelis — security, reciprocity and democracy; "the three pillars of peace", as he called them. And when talking of the importance of democracy Netanyahu stressed, in patronising tones, the fact that Israel was the only democracy in the area. This, he said, meant the essential quotient of democracy in the peace settlement would be achieved after many years, but that Israel could wait for that to happen and peace would have to wait until that goal was achieved.

While outlining his three pillars of peace, Netanyahu skillfully concealed that they were three conditions, essential preconditions, without which Israel would not make peace with the Arabs. Thus, his endless repetition of the

mantra "peace... peace" was a snare and a delusion because it was part of a political bargain, which cannot come off.

Israel has achieved its major goals and, as a satisfied state, it could afford to lean back and wait for the others to catch up. "Self-satisfaction" was perhaps the key to the new mood evoked by the premier. Helped on by several hurs of sycophantic applause from a subservient Congress even when he was defying the American president who, being a good, loyal Zionist

**"Thus, his endless repetition of the mantra 'peace... peace' was a snare and a delusion because it was part of a political bargain, which cannot come off."**

has inevitably given in to the new Israeli approach to the peace process.

Little wonder that Netanyahu laid it down "in good set terms" that Jerusalem was Israel's and Israel's alone and forever. Therefore Israel was not going to let itself be unduly exercised in mind on that issue; and these were fighting words, not words of peace like those uttered in London by South African President Nelson Mandela.

As evidence of Israel's newly confident mood, Netanyahu had the assurance and audacity to quote the Latin tag "pacta sunt servanda" (pacts are

made to be observed). This was audacious because the record shows that if and when it suited its purposes, Israel broke just about every pact it made; then he asserted that from now on Israel was going to be a "good boy" but only if the Palestinians made good on all their obligations, on the basis of "reciprocity". This means he can indefinitely postpone and prevaricate about almost any contentious issue, particularly on the long overdue redeployment from Hebron — on which Israel has clearly taken a decision to act, but

under Arafat was, in fact, swallowing. For which Netanyahu could generously compliment them while urging them to do better. This is real self-satisfaction.

The most gripping — because it was the most menacing part of his speech — warmly applauded by the unknown Congressmen — was an invitation from Israel to the U.S. to join with the Jewish state in a preemptive strike on the nuclear facilities which Iran and Iraq may or may not have. And he tried to make the Americans' blood run cold by stressing the urgency, the desperate urgency, to strike at these targets and thus save not just Israel or the U.S. but the whole world from a horrible fate. This was part of an ongoing campaign to demonise Iran and Iraq, begun much earlier, which was readily picked up by Washington, despite a wary hesitation in Europe.

So confident was Netanyahu that at one point he even gave the Arabs a short lecture on what were the essential elements of democracy.

And many a time and on and on behalf of peace-loving Israel Netanyahu rhetorically "stretched out his hand in friendship to all who would take it" — except, of course, Yasser Arafat. Some media men disobligingly reminded him of this exception.

Led astray by the fulsome flattery of his docile audience Netanyahu permitted himself illogical flourishes which fell flat when considered logically. As when he proclaimed that Israel "had no quarrel with Islam" while insisting on continuing Jewish control of the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem.

One lasting effect of Netanyahu's words would be on Arab-American relations, for the twelve standing ovations of Congressmen has aroused Arab anger, disgust and contempt — all achievements for the Israeli propagandists at the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies, an Israeli think tank in Jerusalem, which produced suggestions for the speech of Netanyahu.

So, all in all, the Netanyahu address said to the Palestinians and to the world that for the next four years at least the Jewish state was going to behave like a victorious ruling state, and that the Arabs would have to accept it, willy-nilly, and the sooner the better. And the U.S. Congress, through its applause, approved of and accepted such a dispensation.

## LETTERS

### Standing ovations

To the Editor:

THE AMERICAN Congress is a formidable establishment in the U.S. It is a body that represents the American people and, among others, legislates for the U.S. in the name of democracy and human rights.

In a joint meeting of the House of Representatives and the Senate, presided over by Vice-President Al Gore, stood Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, arrogantly telling the American Congress and the world that he will not relinquish occupied Arab territory and will keep Jerusalem as Israel's "eternal capital", in defiance of United Nations Security Council resolutions. In the process, he indulged in a lot of political jingoism to manipulate the receptive ears of the American Congress to his twisted logic of "security" for Israel, and hoping that the Arabs will eventually succumb to his (mis)conception of a tough stand.

To Mr. Netanyahu's defiance not only of logic but agreements signed with the Palestinians on the issue of land for peace, the American Congress and the American vice-president offered several standing ovations.

The American Congress, that formidable body, looked so fickle and undignified!

Omar Abbas, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Natasha Bukhari

Jordan

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# Features

## United Germans — many steps forward, but many more needed

By Natasha Bukhari  
Special to the Jordan Times

BERLIN — Seven years after the fall of the Berlin wall separating West and East Germany, Berlin is readying itself to become the capital of the reunified country in a bid to set an example for the rest of Germany by bringing easterners and westerners together. But officials, analysts, observers and inhabitants of this city say that "real integration" has to go beyond ongoing architectural excavations as the challenges of merging cannot be mapped out overnight.

As Berliners are complaining about the inconvenience caused by road diversions and noise pollution resulting from hundreds of swinging cranes towering over the eastern part of the city aimed at speedily erecting modern skyscrapers to replace

graffiti-covered old buildings that tell the story of over 40 years of communism, inhabitants of this soon-to-be metropolis are complaining of more than mere irritation from the heavy construction work; there are more unnerving phenomena involved in this "workshop of unity" that has been going on since the fall of the wall in 1989.

While Berlin is to become the home of the federal government of Germany by the year 2000, Germans, both eastern and western, have a lot at hand to deal with in order to make the ending of the partition a successful experience. The cold war, both sides say, has created a distance between them, and overcoming it will be a lengthy process. Both sides admit that the difficulties accompanying this process have been underestimated and that the move, which was polit-

ically motivated, will require a lot of tolerance from the people who are just beginning to grasp the idea of becoming one after a long wait.

The past territorial division of the city bred differences that cannot be overlooked as the gap in political, economic, cultural and social values and systems widened over the years and, as such, the integration process, despite earlier predictions, will take a long time to be realised.

East Berliners' calling Burgerbrau beer "ours" and boxing champion Henry Maske, "our champion," and West Berliners' blaming the rising rate of unemployment on their new partners, are only few and benign examples of division. This, though, goes deeper and assumes various other dimensions which do not seem easy to overcome, not in a short-time, anyway.

"The only time east and west Berliners reacted as one people was when Germany won the European football cup... it was the only time possessive adjectives like ours and theirs were left out of the celebration as all Germans acknowledged the victory as one for the whole of Germany and not a part of it," says Peter Jakob, a press and information officer at the Senate of Berlin, adding that while eastern and western Berliners speak a common language, they think in different terms and, more often than not, are intolerant of each other's differences.

Westerners want the easterners to "reform" and adopt a western mentality overnight, while easterners are nostalgic for the familiar system they so desperately wanted to break away from and cannot automatically adopt new values that have turned their lives around without,

so far, many rewards to be thankful for.

"There is a gap between the two peoples: for westerners the transformation is going too slow and easterners are finding it very difficult to get used to the unorthodox thought of baying to take their fate in their own hands. They are scared and, understandably so, somewhat resistant," Mr. Jakob says.

But not all west Berliners share Mr. Jakob's sympathetic attitude as many feel that they are paying dearly for "reforming" the east in which billions of "western money, our money" is being pumped, as Dieter, a 26-year-old construction worker puts it.

Even some Bonn officials are not confident that Berlin (or Berliners) is ready for the political move which, they say, is not backed by "the required psychological transformation," as one

foreign ministry official who believes that the overwhelming sentiment among west Germans is that the "easterners want to eat the cake that they did not bake" believes.

Meanwhile, some analysts say that the reason Bonn officials are "not very comfortable with the idea is that they do not want to deal with the hassle of complaints that go along with change... they are too used to the cosy atmosphere in Bonn, that they are so familiar with, so it is not just that westerners want easterners to change, they want them to do so without having to chip in and do some alterations themselves," says one journalist.

"Their picture of West Germany was guided by the media; they watched and heard of an easy life and this is what they expected to find here after the decline of communism. What they did not expect is that one has to work very hard in this open market economy to drive a Mercedes and lead a good life," the official says.

With a 15 per cent unemployment rate in Berlin, which was considered among the richest and most prestigious cities in both the east and the west, bitterness is growing among its inhabitants and demonstrations against unemployment and declin-

ing living standards are becoming a norm in the city.

Officials in the reunified city are not at ease with the situation at hand which they are describing as "dynamite"; however, they insist that with the "priority in politics being given to adjusting the living standards to a uniform one for both sides, it will work," and that, despite the resistance stemming from psychological barriers, once easterners get used to the idea of linking their economy to a free market one, the "fusion" will start to pay off.

However, there is a growing realisation among officials that their expectations of a "total integration in five years" was far too ambitious and that it would take at least 15 years before the experience can be labelled a true success. What Germany is going through now, they say, is "history in the making" and once people break the barriers and start working hard in hand towards the sought political and economic goal through focusing on the long-term benefits of reviving the great and united Germany, both sides will look back at this one day and laugh," says the official.

Berliners admit that the barriers are there and that it is taking them longer than they had anticipated

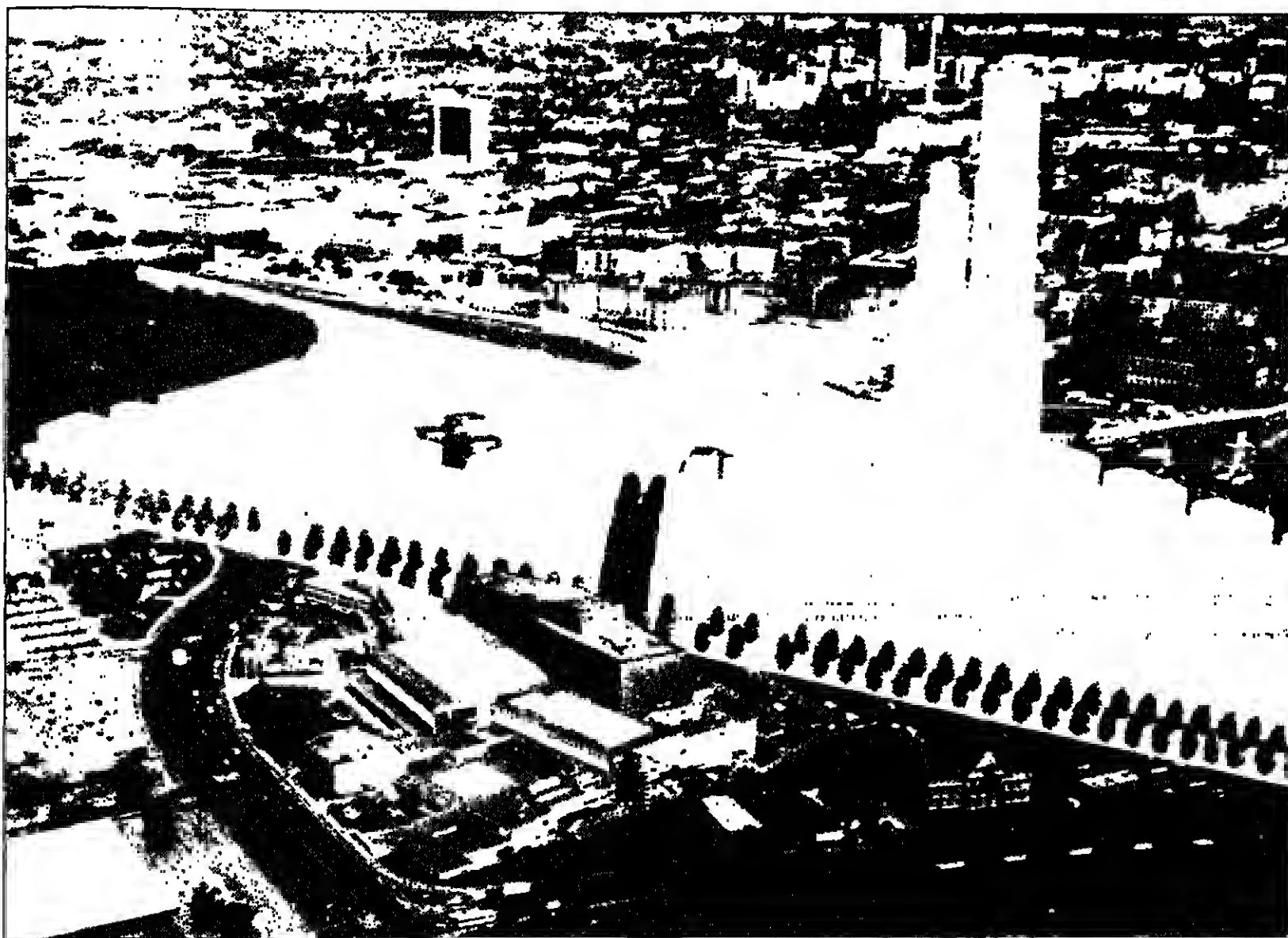
before they actually make big strides towards "fusion," which is not only an economic issue but also, and more importantly, a cultural issue, especially with the feeling that each side is there to erase the culture of the other.

"You see theatres, art galleries and opera houses on each side competing to destroy one another, each claiming that they are superior in the field of art. A theatre company in the east will not take on a western actor and the opposite is true," says Christine, a 30-year-old West Berlin actress.

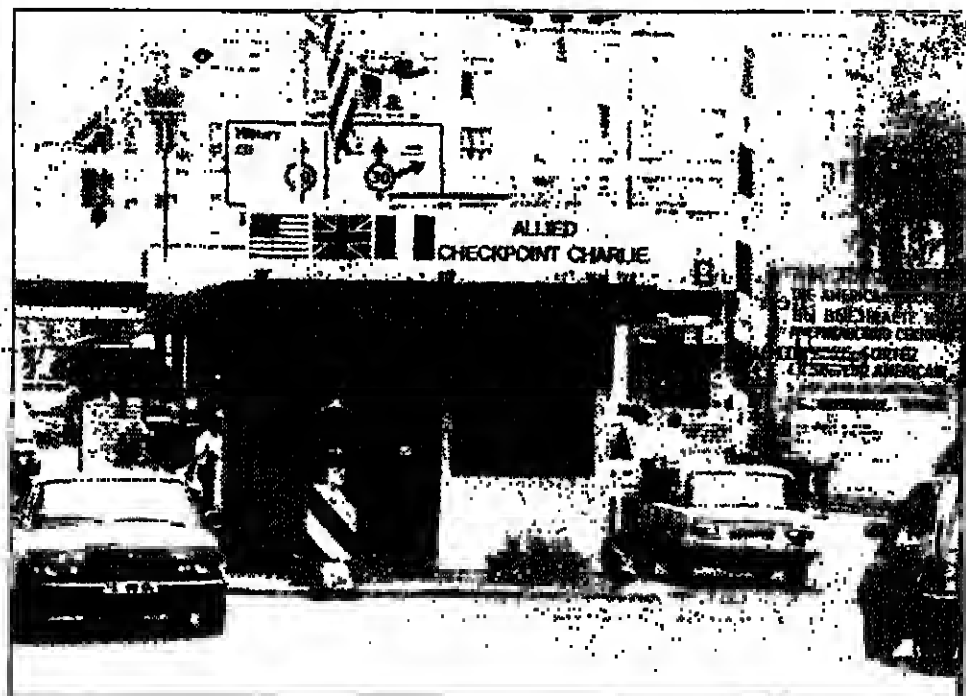
"What none of them realises is that it should not be a competition of terminating one culture on the expense of the other, but rather a fusion between the two, which will actually make Germany richer, more interesting, and more alive. Only when this is achieved can the bitterness end," she adds.

But despite the obstacles, observers believe that the easterners will not opt for a return to communism and that the process of unification is irreversible. What is needed, they say, is more understanding and more tolerance.

"Despite this friction and the identity crisis the east is going through, most easterners do not want to go back to communism, but, like they always say, it takes two to tango and cooperation is essential."



The Berlin of tomorrow: ideas for the heart of a metropolis



Checkpoint Charlie, a landmark of the Berlin wall, one of the divided city's most notorious blackspots (file photos)

## Deserted enclave forgotten in peace as in war

By Kurt Schnrk  
Reuters

ZEPA, Bosnia — Forgotten in peace as it was in war, the historic Muslim village of Zepa stands ruined, its mosque dynamited and its streets deserted except for a few stray dogs which skulk away at the sight of a human.

Only weeks after the Bosnian Serb army captured Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia in July 1995 and slaughtered thousands who surrendered, long-suffering Zepa — which had been besieged since 1992 — came under determined Serb attack.

Nestled in a narrow valley at the foot of a winding mountain track, the village and its environs held between 7,000 and 10,000

inhabitants, many of them refugees from Srebrenica or other parts of eastern Bosnia overrun by Serb forces.

Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic, fresh from his victory at Srebrenica, roamed the high ground above Zepa and took personal charge of the shelling and surrender of the town.

Pacing his command post at the top of the valley, impatient with the pace of negotiations, Gen. Mladic would sometimes address the residents over loudspeakers strung in the forest.

"It was probably the most bizarre thing I've ever heard or seen," recalled Ed Joseph, who was a U.N. civil affairs officer on the scene for 10 days during the fall of Zepa.

"He would use the speakers to tell the people to surrender and shout 'This is Ratko Mladic'. The sound would reverberate up and down the valley. Then he would turn and say to us: 'They're not giving up, I'm going to start shelling again'."

The international community was still numb from the Serb capture of Srebrenica, which had been a U.N.-designated "safe area", as was Zepa.

Despite the obvious risk to civilians in Zepa neither the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) nor the International Red Cross (ICRC) would agree to participate in their evacuation for fear of abetting "ethnic cleansing".

That left Ed Joseph and

one other U.N. civil affairs officer to monitor the exodus of terrified Muslim women and children.

"The UNHCR and ICRC told us these evacuations were supposed to be handled so the refugees could leave with safety, security and dignity," Mr. Joseph said.

"Some went on buses, but others had to ride in cattle trucks. I remember the first day was swelteringly hot. There was very little dignity to the process... The men had to run for their lives."

Unlike Srebrenica, where according to human rights experts thousands of Muslim men who surrendered were summarily executed by Serb troops, the men of Zepa simply melted into the forest and escaped.

Some made it across the

Drina River and crossed into neighbouring Serbia where they were interned and eventually released. Others trekked overland south to Gorazde, another Muslim enclave, where they spent the rest of the war.

Mr. Joseph, now back in Bosnia as a captain in the U.S. Army reserves, recently returned to Zepa for the first time since the evacuation and was obviously distraught by what he found.

"The Serbs had burned some houses and the old Turkish fort but the mosque was still standing when I left. It was exceptional, really lovely. Now there's nothing but rubble," he said, gazing over the debris.

Standing in the small, sloping square near the destroyed mosque where

the women and children were loaded onto buses and trucks for evacuation, Mr. Joseph still seemed stricken by the events he witnessed last summer.

"It was very emotionally draining. It was the instant death of a village. That was the amazing thing, how quickly it was all swept away... It was very scary when you saw how quickly it was all gone," he said.

Below the village proper a stone bridge from Ottoman times, made famous in a story by Ivo Andric, still spans a stream gushing steeply downhill to the Drina.

Water wheels spin without purpose in empty mills along the waterway and the few doors still hanging creak in the wind.

Several abandoned U.N.

peacekeeping positions, their sandbagged perimeters crumbling, are littered with rubbish. The webbed harness from an airdrop of rations and medical supplies lies in a weed-choked lane.

"The deputy mayor told me Zepa would have starved in 1993 if it hadn't been for the airdrops," Mr. Joseph recounted.

U.N. aid workers who reached the village during the long Serb siege were shocked by the medieval medical conditions they encountered. Major surgery, including amputations, was performed routinely without anaesthetic.

As with the death of any settlement, no matter how obscure, unanswered questions remain.

Some of those Zepans

who negotiated the evacuation of their town directly with the Bosnian Serb army disappeared after they were arrested by Gen. Mladic's men. All are presumed dead.

They include the mayor, and Zepa's Muslim military commander, Avdo Palic.

"Palic was very brave during the entire affair," Mr. Joseph recounted. "He knew very well what his fate would be."

"As for Mladic, he was showing his pride, showing it to (the U.N. commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Rupert) Smith, pointing out the Turkish fort and the Andric bridge."

"Smith was here just doing his best to prevent anything terrible happening, trying to prevent another Srebrenica."

## No austerity measures

(Continued from page 1)  
salary increases for government employees and army members. He said Jordanians that are not included under these two categories will be provided with coupons that can be exchanged for cash at local banks. So far, the government repeated assurances and justifications for raising bread prices have apparently failed to defuse the widespread opposition for the move.

On Monday, Islamic Action Front deputies called for an "urgent meeting" of the Lower House of Parliament to discuss the issue.

"We were surprised by the statements of prime minister on Thursday in which he totally ignored the opinions of the deputies who earlier expressed to Mr. Kabariti their opposition to his plan," said a statement addressed to Parliament speaker and faxed to the Jordan Times. "Therefore, we would call for an urgent meeting to discuss the issue," the statement said.

Opposition parties and various public interest groups are also expected to meet on Tuesday to discuss "measures" to fight the government plan.

(Continued from page 1)  
more reports of opposition reaching our ears recently. There are definitely rumblings," the diplomat said. Diplomats said earlier that at least 20 people were killed at the stadium after bodyguards loyal to Col. Qadhafi's son fired at spectators shouting slogans against him. One said he had reports of up to 50 dead.

Tripoli had been relatively free of violent opposition to Mr. Qadhafi in contrast to the Benghazi area in northeastern Libya, a hotbed of Muslim militant

## Diplomats downplay

activity. But police clashed with hundreds of political prisoners at Tripoli's Abu Saleem prison last month after some warders were seized as hostages, a diplomat said. He thought about 100 people were killed in the fighting.

Analysts say four years of U.N. sanctions and what some see as illogical public expenditure have driven some Libyans into violent outbursts to demand change.

The stadium incident is serious trouble by Tripoli standards, "one of the

diploamats said. "I think it is a mixture of football boogymism and political violence which raised the temperature... The violence took a xenophobic turn." The rioters spilled onto the streets, stoning cars belonging to foreigners, harassing passers-by and chanting more slogans. At least two car windows were smashed, diplomats said.

Libya is keen to gloss over any opposition as the work of immigrant workers. Last year, it deported thousands of Sudanese and Egyptian workers for security reasons.

But travellers arriving in Egypt last week reported that at least five people were killed in the coastal town of Benghazi when police clashed with Muslim militants.

They said Col. Qadhafi, 54, had ordered police to shoot on sight the Islamist groups opposed to his rule and police burned down shops of the suspected militants.

A few days earlier the Libyan opposition in exile said at least 12 people, including a key politician, were killed in another clash.

## Jordan, Syria

(Continued from page 1)

But last month Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak organised a meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on the sidelines of an Arab summit in Cairo to patch up their relations.

According to Al Sharq Al Awsat, the agreement between Syria and Jordan was reached during meetings last week between officials from both countries at the border towns of

Deraa and Ramtha.

They also agreed on measures to curb smuggling across their common borders amid complaints from the Jordanian officials of drug smuggling operations from the Syrian-controlled eastern Bekaa Valley of Lebanon while Syrian officials cited the smuggling of petrol from the Jordanian side.







## Saudi prince, Jordan bank in \$40m hotel deal

AMMAN (R) — Saudi Arabian billionaire investor Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal and the Arab Jordan Investment Bank (AJIB) have formed a company to build a \$40 million luxury Four Seasons Hotel in Amman, the bank said Monday.

The principal activity of the Petra Tourism Investment Co. (PTIC) will be to develop and own the new hotel in Amman, a statement from the prince's office in Riyadh said earlier.

AJIB Deputy Manager Hani Al Qadi said Prince Al

Waleed, Four Seasons Hotels Inc., the bank and a subsidiary would hold half the 15 million dinar (\$21 million) equity.

"The partners in PTIC will be offering part of the company's capital for private subscriptions in mid-July. A high level of interest in Petra has already been initiated by institutional and individual investors," the prince's statement said.

It said the 175-room hotel will be Amman's most luxurious to cater for high-end business visitors and tourists.

The bank said it was expected to open in 1999.

The statement from the prince's office said they expected 10 Four Seasons Hotels in the Middle East within the next three to five years. Toronto-based Four Seasons sold 25 per cent of the company and interest in some hotels to the prince last year.

In May, Prince Al Waleed signed an almost \$300 million deal with a private Egyptian group to build a Four Seasons Nile Plaza Hotel in Cairo. Four Seasons' first Middle East project.

Prince Al Waleed has built a multi-billion dollar business with interests in construction, real estate, banking, travel, broadcast media, supermarkets and other industries.

He heads the United Saudi Commercial Bank and has made substantial investments in Citicorp, Euro Disney which owns a Theme Park near Paris, Canary Wharf in London's docklands, U.S. retail group Saks Fifth Avenue and the Plaza Hotel in New York.

## Jordan will not increase trade protocol with Iraq

Mervat Sowadeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan affirmed Monday it will not increase its trade protocol with Iraq and that any new deals to provide food and medical supplies can not be included under the agreement which was signed in January.

Information Minister Marwan Muasher told a press briefing that the cash-strapped Kingdom "cannot afford" to pay more than the \$220 million to finance exports to Iraq.

"The decision was taken because the Central Bank of Jordan could not pay more of its hard currency reserves to provide for Iraqi exports and the situation has not changed since January," Dr. Muasher explained.

He stressed that deals that were signed recently in Baghdad between Jordanian businessmen and Iraqi importers to provide food, medicine to Iraq, will be financed under the oil-for-food-agreement signed with the U.N. in May.

Dr. Muasher was referring to a visit by a Jordanian industrial team to Baghdad last week which resulted in several new deals to provide the Kingdom's eastern neighbour with food and medical supplies.

Head of the delegation and president of Jordan's Chamber of Industry, Khalid Abu Hassan told the Jordan Times upon his return that the team succeeded in reaching an agreement with Iraqi officials on increasing trade between the two countries.

But Mr. Abu Hassan, who has asked the government earlier to reverse its decision to cut the trade volume with Iraq, said he was not sure whether the deals the team signed will be included under the protocol.

Jordan's industrial sector was dealt a heavy blow in January when the government, citing mounting Iraqi debt to Jordan, slashed trade to just over \$220 million from \$400 million.

Jordanian industrialists served as Iraq's main suppliers of food and medicine since 1990 when the United Nations imposed stringent economic sanctions on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.

## Competition, debt burden pressures National Textile and Plastic Industries to sell below cost price

\*\* THE NATIONAL Textile and Plastic Industries Company posted a JD 331,575 loss last year as a result of stiff competition and the pressure from the debt burden. The board chairman, Faisal Ben Khadra, told the general assembly that the company had no choice but to accept selling at below cost price when entering official tenders to repay a portion of bank debts and lessen the financial cost.

Mr. Ben Khadra revealed that the company was indebted to the banks by JD 1.25 million at the end of 1995. Of the amount, JD 576,867 were long-term obligations that represent 23.07 per cent of the company's capital. The total obligations represent 50 per cent.

The chairman said that the sanctions imposed on Iraq have resulted in lower demand from that country but he expressed hope that the oil-for-food deal would allow the situation in Iraq to improve. He added that the company was keen to open new markets in and outside the region and indicated that the firm has sold some of its product to Yemen late last year and has built some contacts there.

He assured the shareholders that the company was working on lowering costs, improving efficiency and productivity (Al Aswaq).

## Delta Insurance distributes dividends at a rate of 15%

\*\* DELTA INSURANCE Company generated JD 308,400 net profit last year and the general assembly has approved distributing JD 150,000 in dividends to shareholders at a rate of 15 per cent. The company collected JD 2 million in premi-

ums in 1995 and paid a total of JD 737,725 in compensation for damages. According to the annual report the company's technical reserves amount to JD7.07 million (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaq + Al Dastour).

## Top Arab bank plans further expansion

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The largest Arab banking group has said that it would open new branches in the Arab World and in Europe as part of an on-going expansion drive.

The Bahraini-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), owned by Libya and other Arab countries, said it had strengthened its presence in Asia and North Africa and would boost operations in the Arab World and Europe.

"The expansion of ABC in the Arab World will continue through 1996 with the establishment of an Islamic banking unit in Bahrain and the opening of a representative office in Abu Dhabi," it said in its 1995 report.

"In the meantime, the companies affiliated to

ABC are searching for more investment opportunities outside the Arab markets," the report added.

It said the ABC subsidiary Banques Atlantico would open a branch in Lisbon and a representative office in Warsaw this year within plans to expand its European network which accounts for nearly half ABC's operations.

In non-Arab Asia, the Hong Kong-based International Bank of Asia Ltd. another ABC subsidiary, set up a representative office in Vietnam this year after widening its activities in the southeastern part of the continent.

"ABC will also continue to play a leading role as link between the Arab World and the international finan-

cial markets," the report said.

ABC's balance sheet showed its earnings had grown steadily over the past few years due to the expansion and a diversification of operations.

Net profits increased to \$116 million in 1995 from \$105 million in 1994 and assets to \$21.2 billion from \$19.5 billion.

Around 50 per cent of the 1995 assets were based in western Europe and 18 per cent in non-Arab Asian states, the report showed.

North America accounted for 14 per cent, the Arab World for 10 per cent and Latin America for five per cent. The rest were in eastern Europe and Africa.

The report said ABC's board had decided not to

make any cash dividend to shareholders in 1995 as a "conservative measure aimed at bolstering the bank's capital base and ensuring viable growth in operations and profits."

This boosted the bank's general reserves to around \$396 million at the end of 1995 from \$274 million at the end of 1994.

Shareholders' equity, comprising the reserves and capital, also increased to around \$1.54 billion from \$1.42 billion.

ABC, the biggest Arab bank in terms of assets, was set up 15 years ago by the Libyan Central Bank, the Kuwaiti Finance Ministry, the state-owned Abu Dhabi investment authority and other regional and international investors.



An Israeli trader shouts out sell orders as shares in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) plunged by over three per cent Monday. The morning's mild declines strengthened by early afternoon amid signs of a deepening crisis in the provident funds industry (Reuters photo)

## REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5186	0.6447	1.2515	110.37	1.3694	1536.26	1.7046	5.1450
DE Mark	0.6555	1.0000	0.4833	0.7363	7.4756	0.9308	10.3361	12.4563	3.3695
GB Sterling	1.5510	1.5510	1.0000	1.9466	170.94	2.1239	2363.51	2.6447	7.9750
CH Franc	0.7978	0.7978	0.5133	1.0000	87.80	1.0916	1234.60	13.591	4.0990
JP Yen	0.0091	0.0091	0.0052	0.0135	1.0000	0.0094	10.3361	0.0117	0.0344
CAD Dollar	0.7362	1.0916	0.4833	0.9308	136.94	1.0000	11.6361	1.3694	3.9535
IT Lira	0.0007	0.0007	0.0004	0.0009	1936.27	0.0009	1.0000	11.6361	3.9535
NTL Guilder	0.5866	0.5866	0.3778	0.7355	64.71	0.8005	996.98	1.0000	3.0166
FR Franc	0.1936	0.2952	0.1253	0.2476	21.44	0.2663	33.13	33.1300	1.0000

Energy				Mid-East Currencies			
Oil	Last	Previous		Currency	USD	DEM	GBP
Brent	20.20	20.45		SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4051	0.1719
WTI	21.65	21.87		AE Dirham	0.2723	0.41363	0.17253
Rosny	20.20	20.45		KW Dinar	3.3361	5.0682	2.151
Dubai	17.70	18.17		BH Dinar	0.3770	0.62901	0.26699
UL Gas	204.00	204.00		CY Pound	2.1267	3.2306	1.3704

Metal Prices				Currency Deposit Rates (Bidi)			
Metal	Bid	Offer		Period	1 - 3	3 - 6	6 - 9
Gold (oz)	382.7	383.2		Month	5.54	5.53	5.75
Silver (oz)	5.98	6.1		Months	5.68	5.68	5.75
Platinum (oz)	391.95	392.95		Year	6.03	6.03	6.03
AL (3 Months)	1456	1458		GBP	0.43	0.42	0.81
CU (3 Months)	1835	1840		JPY	0.43	0.42	0.81
Zinc (3 Months)	1065	1068		OEM	3.19	3.23	3.22
Lead (3 Months)	763	766		FRF	3.65	3.75	3.90
NI (3 Months)	0	0		CHF	2.43	2.56	2.60
				ITL	9.12	8.81	8.56

Main Equity Indices				JOD Cross Rates			
Bourse	Index	Value	Low	Currency	Buy	Sell	
New York	DOW JONES	5455.53	5453.68	US Dollar	0.708	0.710	
New York	S&P 500	640.2	639.99	GB Sterling	1.9966	1.9966	
London	FTSE 100	3698.5	3695.5	DE Mark	0.4644	0.4667	
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	21753.42	21549.2	CH Franc	0.5616	0.5644	
Paris	CAC 40	2029.51	2027.55	FR Franc	0.1372	0.1379	
Frankfurt	DAX	2550.53	2559.27	JP Yen	0.6395	0.6427	
				NTL Guilder	0.4137	0.4158	
				IT Lira	0.0461	0.0463	

Energy				JOD Cross Rates			
Commodity	Last	Deliver		Currency	Buy	Sell	
Coffee (c/b)	123.17	Spot		US Dollar	0.708	0.710	
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1433	Spot		GB Sterling	1.9966	1.9966	
Sugar (\$/ton)	367.5	Spot		DE Mark	0.4644	0.4667	
Wheat (\$/ton)	230	Spot		CH Franc	0.5616	0.5644	
Soya (c/b)	25.5	Spot		FR Franc	0.1372	0.1379	
Tea (c/b)	108	Spot		JP Yen	0.6395	0.6427	
Barley (\$/bsh)	4.08	Spot		NTL Guilder	0.4137	0.4158	
Rice (\$/ton)	430	Spot		IT Lira	0.0461	0.0463	

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

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# COUNTDOWN TO ATLANTA

## Samaranch vows to continue anti-drug battle

ATLANTA (AFP) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch vowed to continue leading the battle against drug cheats here Sunday. And he warned athletes who take drugs that they risk killing themselves.

"Athletes who use banned substances to improve their performance commit a series of acts that transgress and violate certain immutable principles," said Samaranch at the opening of the 105th IOC session.

"First and foremost they destroy their health, which is the most precious thing they possess. Doping leads to physical and moral death because of the irreversible behavioural changes that drug use entails," he added.

But Samaranch admitted it was an uphill struggle to take on the cheats.

"The battle is a difficult and complex one. Its outcome will depend not only on severe measures being taken against violations but also on the educational and pedagogical campaigns launched at all levels to inform athletes and the gen-



International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch receives applause from the audience including Newt Gingrich (right), Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and his wife Bibi after addressing the opening ceremony of 105th IOC general session in Atlanta, July 14 (Reuters photo)

eral public about this despicable and dangerous form of cheating," said the IOC president.

Samaranch also warned about attempts to destroy the unity of the Olympic movement.

"We must be very careful. This unity of which we are all so proud is delicate and needs careful tending every day. Sport is now in a golden age and this may give rise to self-seeking inter-

## 'Cold' Atlanta worries Japanese team

ATLANTA (AFP) — Japan's Olympic team have found the cold rather than the promised searing heat their biggest threat here.

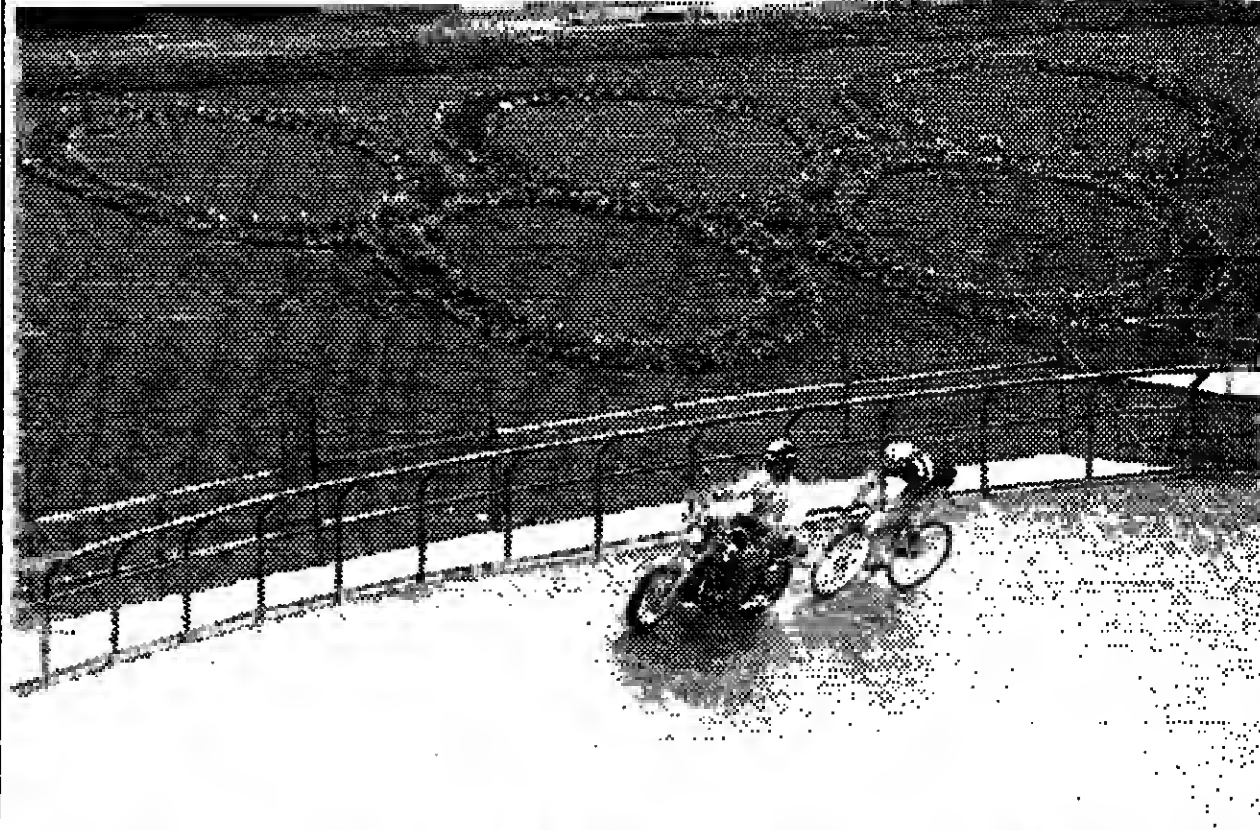
"When you come from the heat outside into an air-conditioned room it is very, very chilly. I have told the athletes to be very careful they do not catch cold," said team doctor Takashi Kawahara, determined to ensure nothing stops Japan's quest for a record medal haul.

National Olympic Committee President Hironoshin Furuhashi has set a target of at least five gold medals.

"We won three in Barcelona, four in Seoul. Here we want at least five. I am also expecting us to win between 25 to 30 silver or bronze," he said.

"Obviously one of our greatest strengths is judo and for the first time we have three brothers competing. Yukimasa, Kenzo and Yoshio Nakamura. I think one of them will win," added Furuhashi.

Other golds are expected in swimming with 200m butterfly star Hitomi Kishima, a 16-year-old high school student, and marathon hopefuls Barcelona silver medalist Yuko Arimori, 1993 world champion Junko Asari and 27-year-old newcomer Izumi Maki.



Finland's Mira Kasslin takes her laps with the Olympic rings in the background at the Olympic Velodrome in Stone Mountain, Georgia, in preparation for the centennial Olympic Games which start July 19. (Reuters photo)

## Italian high jumper faces Olympic ban

ATLANTA (R) — Italian high jumper Antonella Bevilacqua faces an Olympic ban after a controversial drugs test, athletics sources said Sunday.

Bevilacqua, among the top six women's jumpers in the world this season, tested positive twice for the banned stimulant ephedrine in May but was cleared by Italian sports authorities after she claimed she took the drug by mistake.

Although she has been picked for Italy's Olympic team, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has decided not to accept the Italian ruling, the sources said.

The IAAF want to suspend Bevilacqua for three months until August 4, ruling her out of the Atlanta Games which end on that day. "The Italians reinstated the athlete and the IAAF believes this is not acceptable," one source said. "Under IAAF rules, athletes are responsible for what they take into their own bodies."

The IAAF is very keen to clear up all outstanding doping matters before the Olympic athletics programme starts on July 26.

Testing laboratories have been told to speed up analyses of urine samples taken at recent grand prix meetings so that no athlete will compete in Atlanta who has tested positive.

Bevilacqua claims she took ephedrine by mistake in an over-the-counter Chinese herbal medicine which she is believed to have taken to lose weight.

She tested positive for the substance at a domestic meeting in Milan on May 4 when she jumped her best of the season of 1.98 metres. That performance put her among the world's top jumpers and made her a medal contender for Atlanta.

The Italian then tested positive again for the substance at another meeting in Bologna later in the month.

The abuse of ephedrine by athletes is nebulous since many of those detected have claimed in the past they were

using the drugs as cold cures. There is scientific evidence that the substance is abused as an anorectic agent by gymnasts.

The case could prove to be controversial in Atlanta at a time when the IOC is trying to harmonise the drug-testing rules of sports federations so that drug cheats are punished equally across all disciplines.

The Italian Athletics Federation FIDAL claims it was following a recent IOC directive when it reinstated Bevilacqua because she unwittingly took the substance and was not guilty of cheating on purpose.

But one athletics source said: "She tested twice for the same substance. Under IAAF rules she should be suspended for three months until August 4."

Bevilacqua did not qualify for the final of the high jump at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics but was sixth at the 1993 World Championships in Stuttgart. She has won the Italian title consistently between 1991 and 1994.

## USOC chief suggests paralympics as Olympic warm-up

ATLANTA (AFP) — U.S. Olympic Committee President Leroy Walker will urge the International Olympic Committee to hold the paralympics before the Olympics in the future to boost both events.

Walker said he believes holding the paralympics first would mean more spectators for the Games for the disabled, as well as giving Olympic organisers a chance to test venues.

"I think it deserves to have its day in the sun," Walker said of the paralympics, which will be held after the centennial Olympic Games end on August 4.

Paralympic officials agreed, but only if Olympic organisers could guarantee that facilities would be ready.

"It could have enormous benefits if planning allowed for it," said Andy Fleming, president of the Atlanta Paralympic Organising Committee.

With the Atlanta Games scheduled to open July 19, organisers were still working on some projects.

The Clark University buildings slated to house journalists were not ready on time and officials had to find alternative accommodation for those booked to stay there.

The Olympic transportation system was still 300 drivers short of the 3,600 target.

Randstad, the temporary employment agency responsible for hiring the drivers, said it had found 300 drivers, but they had yet to complete the training course.

Of the 1,450 buses being loaned to the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games by other U.S. cities, 600 had arrived.

Another 400 were expected by the end of the week, and all were expected to be in Atlanta by July 19, when the Games begin.

The new centennial Olympic park opened its gates two days ago.

Some 50,000 people crammed into the AIT global Olympic village pavilion and the park's central plaza, which was inspired by 1992 Olympic host city Barcelona's ramblas pedestrian street.

Tim Macy, ACOG's park manager, said the park would be able to handle bigger crowds during the Games, when more corporate pavilions will be open.

## Weld lands another classic in Irish Oaks

DUBLIN (R) — Local trainer Dermot Weld landed his second Irish Classic of the season when dance Design won the Irish Oaks at the Curragh on Sunday with hot favourite Lady Carla trailing in a poor fourth of the six runners.

Lady Carla, trained by Henry Cecil in England and ridden by Pat Eddery, had won the Epsom Oaks by nine lengths and was a 2-1 on chance to complete a classic double.

But after leading into the straight, Lady Carla faded badly on the rails as Dance Design came through on the outside to snatch the spoils.

Weld enjoyed his first Irish Derby success two weeks ago with 20-1 outsider Zagreb.

Jockey Michael Kinane, who has never won the Irish Derby, missed out on Zagreb's success as he opted to ride the British

challenger Dushyantor instead.

But there was ample compensation for Kinane Sunday when he got up on Dance Design (9-2) to take the race by a short-head from Shamadara, the sole French rider who was the mount of Gerald Mosse and a 6-1 chance.

Key Change, ridden by Johnny Murtagh, finished third a further two lengths back at 8-1 with Lady Carla another two and a half lengths away in fourth.

There was a brief stewards' inquiry after the race over some slight bunching but the result was not affected.

Weld said: "The only question mark was over her ability to stay the distance (2.4 km). If she stayed, she had a great chance of winning. Thankfully that was the case."

Dance Design will now go

for the Prix Vermeille at Longchamp in September.

Kinane said: "She quickened well when I asked her. It was a good race to win."

In the absence of a recognised pacemaker, Eddery pushed Lady Carla, to the front from start, but she was quickly picked up at the one furlong (200 metres) pole.

"I knew I was in trouble over two furlongs (400 metres) out when we were not getting away from the field," said Eddery.

Trainer Cecil said: "Ideally, I would have preferred not to have led from the start. But Lady Carla has won from there before so we can have no excuses." The Irish Derby-Oaks double was last completed by Cecil, who saddled Old Vic and Diminundo to victory for Sheikh Mohammed in 1989.

## Next generation of African runners learning at U.S. camp

LAGRANGE, Georgia (AFP) — Africa's Olympic future is being built by teens training half a world from their homelands at this small town southwest of Atlanta.

"Sometimes I am homesick," said 18-year-old Rwandan runner Alexis Sharangabo. "I try to be a man, you know. I try to forget about it. It is hard. But I try."

Sharangabo is among 400 Olympians training in this rural city of 26,000 people. While South African and Brazilian delegations have spent several weeks here before the Olympics, many Africans have been here for two or three years.

"I wish to win. But I'm very young," said Gambia's Fanta Ceasey, who left behind her parents, four sisters and three brothers. "I'm not used to such a big com-

petition. I am the best sprinter back home. But it's not so good for training."

Lagrange College began hosting Olympian training camps in 1991, thanks to a \$750,000 state grant, about 300,000 dollars in annual private funding and an equal amount from the International Olympic Committee.

"It has become like a home," Sudan's Stephen Lugo said. "I was away for three weeks competing in Sweden and Egypt and I was lonely to get back."

About 60 young African athletes have been working here on a \$400,000 track under the guidance of Ron Davis, a U.S. coach who guided African runners for 17 years.

"Our results have been overwhelming in a short space of time," Davis said. In his first few months of

top training, Sharangabo has shaved nine seconds off his 1,500-metre best, to three minutes, 45 seconds. Three-time world record holder Noureddine Morceli had a best of 3:40.41 at his age.

Sharangabo expects his day will come, in Sydney or beyond.

"In Atlanta, you have so many athletes who are the best," Sharangabo said. "This is my first time to participate for my country. I know I have time to progress. My dream is after that. We are here to prepare for 2000."

Of course, there are still distractions. Mozambique's Tina Paulino finds temptation is only a telephone call away.

"In the middle of the night, you can call for a pizza delivery," she said. "In Africa, that doesn't hap-

pen." Chad's Sylvester Doussi, 19, has escaped training distractions back home. "Here I do only two things — train and go to school," he said.

"In my country, when I go to train, I go to watch soccer and musicians instead. Here I have no place else to go."

Except for the new movie "Independence day," Doussi is very busy. "It was very good. I was frightened. I was afraid it was the end of the world."

Athletes live in dormitories and attend school but spend some free time with area families. Money goes for training expenses, English tutors, clothes and \$1,800 a month for expenses. The payoff comes long after Atlanta.

"This year is a big meet, my first Olympics, and it will give me experience for

the future," Doussi said. "But if I stay here two or three years, I am sure I will do something in the 2000 Olympics."

Barnabe Jolicoeur of Mauritius prefers the rural countryside here to the asphalt of the Olympic host city. The 29-year-old grew up running across fields on the Indian Ocean island of Rodrigues without television, telephones, running water or electricity.

"It was all very strange," he said. "Everything was big for me and it was so close together."

Showing Jolicoeur the best of his strange new world was Lynn Dye, whose family hosted him.

"I have gotten to know athletes from countries I have never heard of. It makes the world a lot smaller. That's what the Olympics are all about."

Major League Results			
American League			
Boston	8	Detroit	4
Chicago	3	Kansas City	2
Toronto	7	Milwaukee	5 (10 ins)
Minnesota	9	Cleveland	4
Oakland	3	Texas	1
Seattle	4	California	0
New York	8	Baltimore	1
National League			
St. Louis	7	Chicago	6
Cincinnati	7	Pittsburgh	6
Montreal	5	Philadelphia	2
Atlanta	15	Florida	10
Houston	7	New York	5
New York	10	Houston	3
Colorado	8	San Diego	4
San Francisco	6	Los Angeles	0

# GOREN BRIDGE

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North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠	A J 2	♠	K 4
♥	A 2	♥	10 5 4 3
♦	K 8 2	♦	9 6 5
♣	A 6 2	♣	7 5 3
WEST		EAST	
♠	3	♠	K 8 4
♥	K J 8 8	♥	10 5 4 3
♦	Q J 10	♦	9 6 5
♣	Q 10 8	♣	7 5 3
SOUTH		EAST	
♠	10 9 7 5	♠	10 5 4 3
♥	Q 7	♥	10 5 4 3
♦	Q 7 3	♦	9 6 5
♣	K 9	♣	7 5 3

The bidding:			
West	North	East	South
10	10	Pass	2♠
Pass	30	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

Usually, before you can effect an endplay, all the enemy trumps must be drawn. Once in a while, however, that is a luxury you cannot afford.

With only one stopper and two aces in the enemy suit, North preferred a takeout double of one heart to a trump pull-off device, holding only three spades. When South showed a hand of ♠1-1 points with trumping two spades, West left open the possibility of playing three no trumps with a ♣-win in the enemy suit. South knew where the hand should be played.

West led the queen of clubs, taken in the closed hand. The ten of trumps was run to East's king, and a low heart came back. Since it was obvious that West held the king in that suit, declarer did not squander the queen — this would have put the useful service later. The ace of

clubs was cashed followed by a club ruffed high. Dummy was re-entered with the ace of trumps, West discarding a heart, and the club was trumped in the closed hand.

Despite the fact that no trump was still outstanding, the stage was set for a throw-in. Declarer exited with the queen of hearts and West was trapped. If West returned a heart, declarer would ruff in dummy while dislodging a diamond from hand, and the ace of diamonds would be the only other loser. West chose to return the jack of diamonds, but the location of the ace was marked by the opening bid. Declarer ducked on the table, won in hand with the queen and, after drawing the last trump with the carefully preserved lady in hand, returned a diamond toward the king. The ace of diamonds was the third and last of the losers.

## Sports

### Pyrenees offer last chance for

Pyrenees offer last chance for... (text continues vertically in a narrow column)

### Podenzana wins

Podenzana wins... (text continues vertically in a narrow column)

### Ethiopia wins

Ethiopia wins... (text continues vertically in a narrow column)

### Comoros wins

Comoros wins... (text continues vertically in a narrow column)

<b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Mel Gibson & Sophie Marceau .... in <b>BRAVEHEART</b> winner of 6 Academy Awards Shows: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00	<b>PLAZA</b> Layla Elwi...in Ya Dunya Ya Gharami (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 <b>Toy Story</b> 5:00 p.m.	<b>CONCORD</b> Mel Gibson & Sophie Marceau .... in <b>BRAVEHEART</b> winner of 6 Academy Awards Shows: 1:00, 5:00, 8:30 <b>CONCORD "2"</b> <b>BRAVEHEART</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 (film duration-3 hours)	<b>Imamoun Theatre &amp; Cinema</b> TEL: 614274 / 618275 Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled <b>Five-Star Government</b> Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimah & Hussein Tubeishat play starts 8:30 p.m.	<b>Nabil D. Hisham's Theatre</b> TEL: 625155 <b>PRESENTS</b> <b>THE SATIRICAL COMEDY</b> <b>Arab Human Rights</b> at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155 - 640155
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## Tour de France

### Pyrenees offer Indurain last chance for a win

VILLENEUVE-SUR-LOT, France (R) — Strenuous climbs and painful memories await Tour de France riders in the Pyrenees, where Miguel Indurain will have one last chance to force himself into a winning position.

The five-times winner, who had a rare off-day in the Alps, dropping to eighth place overall over four minutes behind surprise leader Bjarne Riis of Denmark, is looking forward to three stages in mountains he knows by heart, including one in his home region of Navarra.

But there will be a sad note as it was in the Pyrenees that Olympic champion Fabio Casartelli of Italy was killed last year in a crash coming down the Portet d'Aspet pass.

As the Tour nears Spain, where he would have loved to arrive with the yellow jersey on his shoulders, Indurain knows it will be tough for him to earn another line in the record books.

"The guys in front of me look strong but I haven't lost yet," he said. "What happened to me in the Alps was because of all the rain and cold. Now it's sunny at last and I feel much better."

The first of the three stages, in the Pyrenees, which will take the riders to the resort of Hautacam Tuesday, is fondly remembered by the Spaniard, who used the final, punishing climb to seal his fourth triumph two years ago.

The stage in which Indurain dreams of shining is the next one Wednesday which finishes in Pamplona, near Villava, where his parents have a farm.

That stage over 262 kms will be the longest of the 1996 Tour and one of the toughest with no fewer than seven passes including the awesome Puerto de Larrau, on the Spanish border.

When the Tour leaves the Pyrenees on Thursday to head for Hendaye, on the French Basque coast, Indurain will probably know whether he can still win the race.

The stages in the Pyrenees, which cross the Basque country, are anxiously awaited by the Tour organisers, who have received threats from ETA separatists.

"They said the Basque language should be used on those stages and it will be as we will have a speaker who will talk Basque at the start and the finish and during the stages," said Tour director Jean-Marie Lehanec.

Indurain's goal is to reach a potentially decisive time-trial on Saturday, one day before the traditional finale on the Champs-Elysees, not too far behind Riis.

The Spaniard, who excels against the clock, can reasonably hope to gain some time on the Dane over 63.5 kms from Bordeaux to Saint-Emilion.

He has received encouragement from Charly Gaul of Luxembourg, who sent him a letter to remind him how he had won the 1958 Tour.

"When I won the Tour, I was 15 minutes behind three days before the end," wrote Gaul. "In one single stage, I gained 20 minutes on (Frenchman Jacques) Anquetil and over half an hour on (Spaniard Frederico) Bahamontes. It's not over yet. Good luck."

### Podenzana wins 15th stage

VILLENEUVE-SUR-LOT, France (AFP) — Massimo Podenzana of Italy won the 176km 15th stage of the Tour de France from Brive-la-Gallarde to Villeneuve-Sur-Lot Monday — a remarkable achievement on his first Tour.

Podenzana's compatriot Giuseppe Guerini was second, 37 seconds behind, and Peter Van Petegem of Belgium was third, 50 seconds in arrears.

Bjarne Riis of Denmark retained the overall leader's yellow jersey — coming in over five and a half minutes after Podenzana in the peloton.

Podenzana, on his first Tour despite being 34-years-old, had been part of a 28-man group that had escaped after only 10km.

Crossing the line, Podenzana raised his arms and then gave the sign of the cross in delight at winning the stage.

Podenzana was joined by Australian Neil Stephens, Guerini.

Van Petegem, another Italian Michele Bartoli and Frenchman Francois Lemarchand — who were left to fight the stage win out between themselves.

Though Stephens, winner of 33 races in his distinguished career, and Bartoli, winner of this season's Tour of Flanders, tried to get back on terms they were hindered by Van Petegem who, while doing some of the late pacemaking, had earlier in the stage not helped out.

Van Petegem's TVM team wanted their team leader Jeroen Blijlevens to win the stage and hoped the peloton could catch the leaders. They gave instructions for Van Petegem to hinder the breakaway if he could.

Stephens then fell at a corner five kilometres from home, impeding Lemarchand and leaving the minor places to Bartoli, Guerini and Van Petegem as Podenzana's bold move paid off.

Serge Beucherie, one of Lemarchand's management team from Gan, criticised TVM's tactics saying: "It is not in our style to not help the leading group — unlike TVM."

Van Petegem defended his tactics.

"I wanted to help, but I wasn't allowed to by my boss. I would love to win a stage of the Tour de France, but if my team tells me not to help, what can I do?" he asked.

The peloton, led by Sunday's stage winner Djamolidine Abdoujaparov's Refin team, never managed to reduce the gap to below five minutes.

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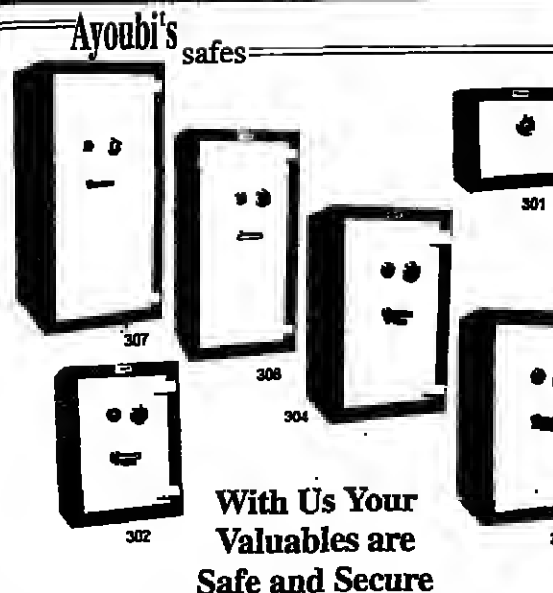
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Brazil's Bebeto, left in background, celebrates with teammate Juninho (right) after scoring the first goal of their game against the FIFA World Stars in East Rutherford, New Jersey. World Stars Lothar Matthaus of Germany is at left. Brazil won the game 2-1 (Reuters photo)

## Brazil edge FIFA All-Stars 2-1

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (R) — The Brazilian Olympic team beat the FIFA World All-Stars 2-1 on a late goal by defender Roberto Carlos Sunday in its final warm-up before the start of the Games.

A record crowd to watch a sports event at Giants Stadium of 78,416 watched as Bebeto set up Carlos, who beat goalkeeper Nelson Tapia of Chile from a severe angle to the near post in the 78th minute.

"This was obviously a good win for us," Brazilian coach Mario Zagallo said. "Beating a team of this calibre will give us confidence going into that first match against Japan."

Brazil begins the Olympics against Japan Sunday in Miami and then meets Hungary and Nigeria in opening round robin games.

Brazil has never won a gold medal in soccer, but the chances are very good the drought will be over soon according to the FIFA all-star coach the former Danish national team coach Richard Moeller-Neilson. "As far as I can see, the Brazilians have a very good chance to win in Atlanta," said Moeller-Neilson.

"Everybody likes to talk about how technical they are. They are physically very fit. Normally, they are good with the ball."

"They can play the ball in every position," said Moeller-Neilson. "The defence is very strong. The players are very fast. They support each other very well."

Bebeto lifted the Brazilians to a 1-0 lead three minutes into the second half. Savio sent the World Cup star a long, low pass through the centre of the field. Bebeto raced toward the penalty area as Tapia came out to the top of the box. Tapia tried to knock the ball away, but it bounced right back to Bebeto, who headed it home from 15 yards.

German star striker Juergen Klinsmann equalised on a brilliant volley in the 69th minute. Argentine midfielder Fernando

Redondo raced unmarked into the penalty area on the left side and lofted a cross to Klinsmann, who kicked the ball into the net from 12 yards past goalkeeper Dida. "My goal wasn't really that difficult," Klinsmann said. "The ball was perfectly prepared for me."

The lineups: FIFA World Stars: Jorge Campos (Nelson Tapia, 46th), Lothar Matthaus, John Harkes (Fernando Couto, 46th), Fernando Hierro (Ned Zelic, 46th), Marcel Desailly (Mark Fish, 85th), Mark Fish (Krasimir Balakov, 46th), Michael Laudrup (Abdiel Pele, 46th), Fernando Redondo, David Ginola, Juergen Klinsmann, Kazu Miura (George Weah, 46th).

Brazil: Dida, Ze Maria, Aldair, Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos, Flavio Conceicao, Amaral (Ze Elias, 67th), Juninho, Rivaldo, Bebeto, Savio (Ronaldo, 67th).

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## NY Knicks take on new look in one day

NEW YORK (R) — It will certainly be the new New York Knicks this season after the signing of a new starting backcourt and the acquisition of All-Star forward Larry Johnson Sunday.

At Madison Square Garden news conference, the Knicks introduced guards Allan Houston and Chris Childs after signing the pair of free agents to long term deals. Houston came from Detroit and signed a seven-year deal worth \$56 million while Childs came from just across the Hudson River and the New Jersey Nets and is inked for six years for \$24 million.

Shortly afterwards, the team announced that the much anticipated trade with Charlotte to get Johnson had been completed. The Knicks will get the high scoring forward in exchange for starting forward Anthony Mason and backup frontcourt reserve Brad Lohaus.

"Today we hit the jackpot," said the Knicks GM Ernie Grunfeld. "We have added three outstanding players in our efforts to bring a championship to New York."

The 27-year-old Johnson is a two-time All-Star and is expected to take some of the scoring burden off the Knicks franchise centre Patrick Ewing. Johnson, the NBA's rookie of the year in 1991-92, averaged 20.5 PPG last season.

Johnson welcomed the chance of challenging for the title with his new team.

"They win 50 games almost every year and have a tradition of winning," Johnson said of the Knicks. "Once we get into camp, build some chemistry together, there is no limit to how good we can be."

This is the best choice for me."

Johnson has nine years and \$70 million left on a 12-year contract worth \$84 million.

Houston averaged 19.7 PPG last season. He shot 45 per cent from the field and hit 42 per cent of three-pointers.

"When I got up this morning I had a big juicy apple, so that tells you where I am," said the 25-year-old Houston. "This is the best thing in my career right now for Allan Houston. I am ready for New York."

The 25-year-old Childs emerged as the nets starting point guard last season after New Jersey had shipped All-Star Kenny Anderson to Charlotte in midseason. In 54 games, Childs averaged 12.8 ppg and 7.0 assists per game.

"I'm really excited about being here," said Childs, whose signing prompted the Knicks to release veteran point guard Derek Harper. "It's like a dream come true."

Mason, 29, is one of the league's top defensive players and added considerable scoring punch to his game last season by averaging a career high 14.8 ppg. He won the NBA's sixth man of the year award two seasons ago and this past season in a starting role logged more minutes than any other player in the league.

"Anthony will bring a great deal of toughness to our lineup and his work ethic and high energy is second to none," said Hornets coach Dave Cowens.

## Dream Team III routs Greece in final Olympic tune-up

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) — "Dream Team III" completed its pre-Olympic exhibition tour with a 128-62 rout of Greece Sunday, boosting its average victory margin in the five games to 44 points.

Indiana's Reggie Miller scored 21 points and Utah's Karl Malone added 19 as the United States Olympic team of National Basketball

Association stars won for the fourth time against international opposition. The Americans tallied from 17 points down to beat a U.S. under-23 team in its

opener, then beat Brazil by 47, China by 61 and Australia by 41 points.

Dream Team III raced to a 22-6 lead in the first six minutes of the game and built a 74-34 half-time lead. The NBA stars hit 26-of-42 shots from the field (62 per cent) in the first half and 63.5 per cent for the game.

Grant Hill of the Detroit Pistons had 15 points and Mitch Richmond of the Sacramento Kings added 14. Fragiskos Alvertis of Greece won with 14 points.

The Dream Team's Olympic opener is July 20 against Argentina.

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## Mayor of largest Israeli settlement in W. Bank forecasts massive growth

### OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — The mayor of the largest Jewish settlement in the West Bank predicted Monday that it would double in size under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's pro-settlement government.

Benny Kashriel spoke a day after settler leaders said they hoped to triple the number of West Bank settlers in the four years of Mr. Netanyahu's government, a move that could end peace talks with the Palestinians.

Maaleh Adumim lies 10 kilometres northeast of Jerusalem, and Mr. Kashriel sees the settlement eventually linked to the city.

"Four years from now I see more than 40,000 residents in Maaleh Adumim," he told Israeli radio. "By the end of the decade we will be more than 60,000 and we

have plans to expand to up to 100,000."

Khalil Tufakji, head of the Mapping Bureau at the Arab Studies Institute, said the Israeli measures were intended to destroy any Palestinian claim to East Jerusalem, which Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

"This destroys any idea of making Jerusalem a Palestinian capital," Mr. Tufakji said. "This government is intensifying efforts to achieve this goal."

Mr. Netanyahu says he supports expanding Jewish settlement, but has not made clear if he plans to build new settlements or enlarge existing ones.

He said Sunday he would consider proposals for new settlements, but stressed that "the government's policy is determined by the gov-

ernment and not by any outside group."

The previous Labour-led government largely froze construction of new settlements, but allowed construction of thousands of new homes in existing communities around Jerusalem, including Maaleh Adumim. That construction came despite protests from the United States, which considers settlements an obstacle to a peace settlement with the Palestinians.

Slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had said he wanted to annex Maaleh Adumim as part of a final peace settlement.

Former Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said Sunday that the Labour Party would not oppose settlement construction in West Bank areas close to Jerusalem.

## Palestinians appeal to world parliaments over 'violations'

### GAZA CITY (AFP) —

The Palestinian legislative council said Monday it would write to parliaments around the world to protest Israeli "violations" of the autonomy accord.

"The council has decided to inform the parliaments of the world on the Israeli violations of the autonomy accord," said the council's secretary general, Rami Fattuh.

"We have taken the decision and the letters will be sent out in the near future," he told AFP.

The letter spells out a list of 25 alleged violations of the 1993 autonomy accord between Israel and the Palestinians including the delay in the Israeli military redeployment from the West Bank town of Hebron, the refusal to dis-

cuss the final status of Jerusalem and the refusal to free Palestinian prisoners.

The legislative council's president, Ahmed Korei, called a press conference in Ramallah to warn that the peace process was in danger of being destroyed if right-wing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu refused to budge from his hardline policy stance.

"The peace process will be destroyed if the Israeli government continues its present policies. If the Israelis put their public statements into action, especially concerning settlements and Jerusalem, then there will be no common ground left," said Mr. Korei.

He added: "If Israel does

not respect the timetable of the accord that will put the accord itself in great danger," he added.

Mr. Netanyahu reportedly discussed with U.S. President Bill Clinton alleged Palestinian violations of the accord during his U.S. visit last week.

He also angered Palestinians by telling the U.S. Congress that Jerusalem, the eastern part of which is claimed by Palestinians as the capital of a future state, would remain Israel's eternal and undivided capital.

Since his election in May polls Mr. Netanyahu has rejected the land-for-peace principle as the basis for peace with Arab neighbours, saying Israel's security concerns must take priority.

## Reports saas Army officers among highest paid Israelis

### TEL AVIV (AP) —

Under fire for proposed cuts to the military budget, Israel's finance ministry stunned Israelis Thursday by disclosing salary figures that show army officers to be spectacularly well paid by Israeli standards.

A major general, for example, earns 27,000 shekels (\$8,500) a month, about five times the average Israeli salary, according to the figures broadcast by Israeli TV and radio stations. Upon retirement, which can come as early as age 42, a major general receives grants of 1.4 million shekels (\$400,000).

Major generals are the highest ranking army officers except for the chief of staff, who is a lieutenant general.

Lower-ranking officers

earn somewhat less — brigadier generals earn 22,000 shekels (\$6,900) a month, colonels 18,900 shekels (\$5,900), lieutenant colonels 17,000 shekels (\$5,300) and majors 12,000 shekels (\$3,800) — but their salaries and retirement packages still far exceed those of most Israelis.

Retirement grants for lower-ranking officers range from 412,000 shekels (\$130,000) for a major to 1.1 million (\$346,000) for a brigadier general.

The figures were provided by the finance ministry at a closed meeting of the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee. The army spokesman could not immediately confirm the figures.

Rehavim Zeevi, a retired general, was quoted by Israel Radio as saying he was embarrassed by the revelations.

Israel Radio said the monthly salary of officers rose by more than 40 per cent in the past three years and that salaries now account for about half the \$9 billion military budget. Last week, the government agreed to cut 825 million shekels (\$260 million) from the military budget as part of a 4.9 billion shekel (\$1.5 billion) overall budget cut aimed at reducing the government deficit and taming double-digit inflation.

That was about half the initial proposed cut in the military budget, which was reduced after an outcry by defence officials.



Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy (right) gives Jordanian Ambassador to Israel Omar Rifai a pat on the back as they talk with the press at the start of their meeting Monday. Mr. Levy said that officials were preparing for the first high-level meeting of Israel's new hard-line government with PLO President Yasser Arafat later this month (Reuters photo)

## Jordan to let Netanyahu have his say

### AMMAN (AFP) —

Jordan wants to hear Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plans for the peace process on his first trip to the Kingdom as Israeli leader next week, Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Monday.

"We judge Netanyahu by deeds and not words, although we have heard many unpleasant remarks about him," Dr. Muasher told a weekly press briefing.

But he said Jordan would highlight the "need to resume peace talks on the

basis of land-for-peace," on which the peace process was launched in Madrid in 1991.

"We will hear from Mr. Netanyahu whether he wishes to maintain Israel's commitment towards peace and build on the existing agreements," Dr. Muasher added.

Jordan's priority was to jumpstart "the peace process on all tracks — the Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian."

The talks have been effectively on hold since the end of February, although the

final round of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations were symbolically launched and then adjourned in May.

The right-wing Likud leader is due in Jordan on July 25 on his first official visit since taking up the reins of government in Israel after defeating peace architect Shimon Peres in May 29 elections.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti has said the visit "will be very important and not merely ceremonial."

Arab countries have been alarmed by Mr. Netanyahu's hardline policies and his

refusal to soften his stand during a trip to the United States last week, when he ruled out any division of Jerusalem and said Jews had the right to settle in the West Bank.

Jordanian officials will also seek a commitment from the Israeli premier to provide the Kingdom with an extra 50 million cubic meters of water, as stipulated in their 1994 peace treaty, added Dr. Muasher.

Israel has not yet met this provision, despite continued Jordanian demands.

## Syria calls on U.S. to save peace process

### DAMASCUS (AFP) —

Syria urged the United States on Monday to save the Middle East peace process from the policies of hardline Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In the face of Mr. Netanyahu, who "wants to destroy all achievements made over the last five years," will the "world continue to be a by-stander vis-a-vis Mr. Netanyahu's subversive policy," the official Syria Times said in an editorial.

"Most important is the question: Will the U.S. stay inactive?" the paper asked.

The U.S. administration has yet to react publicly to the hardline statements that Mr. Netanyahu made during his trip last week to Washington, where he rejected the principle of land for peace, including the return of the strategic Golan Heights to Syria.

"The Israeli claim that keeping the Golan under occupation will guarantee their security is a big lie because peace and stability can never be achieved unless the state of occupation comes to an end and Syrian citizens return to their homes, properties and lands in the Golan as a

whole," the paper added.

The Syrian call for U.S. and international intervention in the peace process echoes the one made Sunday by a meeting in Muscat of foreign ministers from Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates.

They expressed "deep concern" at Mr. Netanyahu's hardline policies.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has meanwhile assured Palestinian President Yasser Arafat that the U.S. position on the Middle East peace process remains the

same, officials in Gaza City said Monday.

In a written letter to Mr. Arafat after the Netanyahu's trip, Mr. Clinton said "Washington supported a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and affirmed that the American position was unchanged."

Palestinian spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina said.

Mr. Clinton told Mr. Arafat that the United States "will do all it can to support the Palestinian people," Mr. Abu Rudeina added.

## Police kill militant leader in south Egypt

### CAIRO (AFP) —

A Muslim militant leader was killed Monday in a gunbattle with police in a railroad station in the southern province of Assiut, police said.

Police said they had received a tip that Sayed Abdul Rehman, 28, a military leader in the Gamaa Islamiya group, had a rendezvous in the station at Abu Tig village, 400 kilometres south of Cairo.

They ambushed Abdul Rahim at the station and in the ensuing gunbattle he was shot dead, police said, adding that no civilians were hurt.

On the body of Abdul Rehman, who was wanted for killing a police officer in June 1995, police found the pistol of the murdered officer.

Abdul Rehman had been working to reorganise Gamaa cells in the region

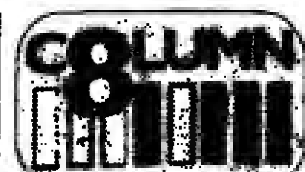
"to commit terrorist attacks", police said.

His death brought to 1,029 the number killed in the confrontation between police and Muslim militants who have been waging an anti-government campaign since 1992.

Meanwhile, police said three bedouin had been arrested in Egypt's Sinai peninsula for planning to sell 50 kilograms of TNT to Muslim militants.

The three were caught Sunday near the town of Dahab, 530 kilometres east of Cairo, with TNT as well as 65 sticks of dynamite and three machine guns in their possession.

All were left over from the Egyptian-Israeli wars in the Sinai. The bedouin planned to sell the explosives, which were still usable, to Muslim militants to carry out "terrorist attacks", police said.



### Amateur pilot injures wife in crash landing

#### LONDON (R) —

An amateur pilot flying his home-built aeroplane made an emergency landing and seriously injured his wife as she was walking their dog in a field in Oxfordshire, southern England, police said Sunday. The pilot, Paul Ellis, was unhurt when he crash-landed his single-seater aircraft. But the plane's tail flew off, hitting his wife Nicola in the head and killing the dog instantly.

### Man who failed to sound air raid sirens sentenced to jail

#### SEOUL (AFP) —

A man blamed for failing to sound air raid sirens when a defecting North Korean pilot flew his MiG-19 fighter into South Korea has been sentenced to a year in jail, newspapers said Monday. The sentence was handed down by a Seoul court to Kim Tu-Su, former head of the capital's Air Raid Warning Centre, for failure to sound the alarm during the May defection. Three technicians at the centre were given 10-month suspended sentences. The court was told the sirens were not sounded when the MiG-19 streaked across the border 58 kilometres north of Seoul because the automatic alert system was disconnected.

### Italian police discover stolen art treasure

#### ROME (R) —

Italian police said they have arrested a Roman lairdresser on charges of theft and extortion after finding stolen art worth nearly \$4 million in her apartment. Carabinieri paramilitary police said they arrested Emanuela Sodano, owner of a hair salon in a chic Rome quarter, and confiscated the art works which had been stolen from a Rome businessman in 1995. The pieces were found in her flat in Castelnuovo Di Porto, just outside Rome. They included a painting by Renaissance master Titian plus some 40 other works by Venetian and Flemish painters dating to the 15th and 17th centuries, Venetian furniture from the 1700s and rare Louis XIV sculptures.

Police said Sodano visited the businessman, who was not identified, several times at this Roman residence in an effort to extort several million dollars in exchange for returning his art treasures. Several other people believed to be involved in underground art trafficking were also being investigated, police added.

### Moose cheese to oust dung as Swedish souvenir

#### STOCKHOLM (R) —

A Swedish moose fancier has said he would open the country's first elk farm in Bjurholm, northern Sweden to open up the world of the shy Nordic forest-dweller to tourists. "The moose is seen by the continental public as very exotic and we want to show them everything there is about a moose," moose farm director Christer Johansson told Reuters. The 10 elk will be milked five times a day, and the milk, yoghurt and cheese produced will be sold in the farm shop. Mr. Johansson said he wanted to offer tourists a better quality of moose souvenir.

"I have seen painted moose dung sold as jewellery ... I have also heard about one person who exported large quantities of canned moose crap to England," he told Reuters.

Sweden is famous for its moose hunting and moose meat is a popular delicacy.

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## Two former IAF members to set up political parties

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After their recent defections from the Islamic Action Front (IAF), two former members of the country's largest political grouping have announced their intention to form two new Islamic parties.

Deputies Ahmad Kasasbeh from Kerak and Theab Abdullah from Amman have been working on the political programmes and lines of the new parties for the past few weeks and, it realised, their projects may eventually lead to a fracture in the traditional unity of the Islamic bloc.

Mr. Kasasbeh said his new political formation, likely to be dubbed as the Jordanian Arab Islamic Party (JAIP), is not going to be "the imitation of any other party" and will be positioned in the political arena "at the left of the IAF and at the right of the centrists."

Stressing the need for more

articulation in the Islamic bloc, Mr. Kasasbeh told the Jordan Times that "while on Jordan's political scene the left is currently occupied by over 10 parties, and the so-called 'nationalist' parties reach up to eight, there is only one active Islamic party."

According to Mr. Abdullah, instead, "it is not a matter of left or right," but rather of being able "to take real and concrete actions to promote democratic development."

Blaming the IAF for having stepped "too far away from reality and people's life" and accusing Jordan's largest opposition group of not respecting democratic rules in internal decision-making, Dr. Abdullah pledged his new Unity Party (UP), though "based on Islam's political tenets," will keep a distance from the IAF.

"The circle of decision mak-

ers in the IAF is too tight," he told the Jordan Times.

But the IAF does not seem to worry about the sudden mushrooming of new Islamic parties.

"I know both Mr. Abdullah and Mr. Kasasbeh very well, I know their backgrounds and their political stands and I'm sure their new parties will not differ much from the IAF," Deputy General Secretary of the IAF Abdul Latif Arabiyat told the Jordan Times.

Stating that "there will be no divisions, but we will all work together as brothers to solve our own internal problems," Mr. Arabiyat, however, said that, in his opinion, the two defectors "did not have enough reasons to set up two new parties, and there were no justifications for such a drastic decision."

But Mr. Abdullah and Mr. Kasasbeh do not seem to think

so. "We will go ahead," said Mr. Abdullah, who in February resigned from the IAF on the grounds that the party's decision to withhold confidence in the Kabariti government had been taken "unilaterally, without consulting the front's executive bureau or the deputies in Parliament."

"During my campaign, I promised my constituency that I would have consulted with them before taking any decision, and so I did on the occasion of the vote of confidence to the Kabariti government."

"(My electorate) said I should have accepted under certain conditions, and when I dictated those conditions to Mr. Kabariti and he promised me to meet them, I could not betray my electors," Mr. Abdullah, who was the only

IAF deputy to give the Kabariti government a vote of confidence, recalled.

As "since then, (his) relations with the front became tense and strained," Mr. Abdullah withdrew, to be followed shortly, in March, by Mr. Kasasbeh, who, abstaining, was the second deputy to break the coalition and quit the 17-strong Islamic bloc in Parliament.

Unlike his colleague, Mr. Kasasbeh does not seem to hold grudges against his ex-party: "I consider the IAF the most democratic party in the country and I hold all its members in highest regard," he told the Jordan Times.

The main difference between his planned JAIP and the IAF is going to be that "as its name says, the new party will concentrate, in order, on Jordanian, Arab and Islamic matters, and will put a special

focus on the advancement of democracy and enhancement of freedom," Mr. Kasasbeh said.

Confronted on current hot issues, the JAIP seems to adopt a line more moderate than the UP's. "Though the government could have risen the price of bread more gradually, internal and external circumstances forced the cabinet to lift state subsidies on bread to contain the budget deficit," Mr. Kasasbeh said. "It is like surgery: painful but necessary," he added.

On the other hand, Mr. Abdullah reaffirmed his firm stand against the cabinet's measure and threatened that, in case of a parliamentary debate and a new vote of confidence, his UP would withhold the confidence.

Doubting that the two projects could ever be combined, Mr. Abdullah, who already

collected over 400 signatures, almost three times more than the minimum of 150 signatures required by the law to register a new political party, said his UP will "start from the point that Jordan is part of the Arab World and, therefore, will look at Jordanian problems from an Arab perspective."

Stressing that the "JAIP does not exist yet, but is in a very preliminary phase," Mr. Kasasbeh said he has not seen the 400 signatures collected by the UP and he does not know whom they belong to.

Pointing out that he is contacting "all those who care about democracy in the country," Mr. Kasasbeh said he is still working on the new party's programme.

He was as sceptical as his colleague about the possibility of merging the two rising groups: "Mr. Abdullah seems to be in a hurry, and is proceeding on a very fast track," Mr. Kasasbeh told the Jordan Times.

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Man who failed to sound air raid sirens sentenced to jail ... Seoul (AFP) — A man blamed for failing to sound air raid sirens when a defecting North Korean pilot flew his MiG-19 fighter into South Korea has been sentenced to a year in jail, newspapers said Monday. The sentence was handed down by a Seoul court to Kim Tu-Su, former head of the capital's Air Raid Warning Centre, for failure to sound the alarm during the May defection. Three technicians at the centre were given 10-month suspended sentences. The court was told the sirens were not sounded when the MiG-19 streaked across the border 58 kilometres north of Seoul because the automatic alert system was disconnected.

Italian police discover stolen art treasure ... Rome (R) — Italian police said they have arrested a Roman lairdresser on charges of theft and extortion after finding stolen art worth nearly \$4 million in her apartment. Carabinieri paramilitary police said they arrested Emanuela Sodano, owner of a hair salon in a chic Rome quarter, and confiscated the art works which had been stolen from a Rome businessman in 1995. The pieces were found in her flat in Castelnuovo Di Porto, just outside Rome. They included a painting by Renaissance master Titian plus some 40 other works by Venetian and Flemish painters dating to the 15th and 17th centuries, Venetian furniture from the 1700s and rare Louis XIV sculptures.

Moose cheese to oust dung as Swedish souvenir ... Stockholm (R) — A Swedish moose fancier has said he would open the country's first elk farm in Bjurholm, northern Sweden to open up the world of the shy Nordic forest-dweller to tourists. "The moose is seen by the continental public as very exotic and we want to show them everything there is about a moose," moose farm director Christer Johansson told Reuters. The 10 elk will be milked five times a day, and the milk, yoghurt and cheese produced will be sold in the farm shop. Mr. Johansson said he wanted to offer tourists a better quality of moose souvenir.

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